



DARK NIGHTS

DEATH
METAL

1

AGE 13+

LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHTS



SNYDER • TYNION IV • WILLIAMSON • TOMASI • BENNETT • TIERI
JOHNSON • ENNIS • DANIEL • ROSSMO • IGLE • FRANCAVILLA
JONES • MAIOLO • PLASCENCIA • SOTOMAYOR • SPICER • BELLAIRE

DARK NIGHTS
DARK METAL
LEGENDS
OF THE
DARK KNIGHTS

THE **DC UNIVERSE** HAS BEEN ENGULFED BY THE **DARK MULTIVERSE**, WHERE DEMONS DWELL AND REALITY IS OVERRUN BY MONSTROUS VERSIONS OF THE **DARK KNIGHT**, ALL RULED BY **THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS**. IN THIS COLLECTION OF SHORT TALES, LEARN THE TERRIFYING SECRETS OF THESE NEW BATS OUT OF HELL AND OTHER CREATURES OF THE NIGHT. MEET **ROBIN KING**, A YOUNG VERSION OF **BRUCE WAYNE** WHOSE DARK PAST GOES DOWN AN UNEXPECTED, HORRIFIC PATH. PLUS, READ ABOUT THE SHOCKING SECRET BURIED DEEP BENEATH **CASTLE BAT**, AS WELL AS THE STORY BEHIND THE **SENTIENT BATMOBILE**, AND...HOW DID **BATMAN** TURN INTO A **TYRANNOSAURUS REX**?

THE DARKEST KNIGHT IN I AM HERE

WRITERS: SCOTT SNYDER, JAMES TYNION IV, JOSHUA WILLIAMSON
ARTIST: TONY S. DANIEL - COLORIST: MARCELO MAIOLO - LETTERER: TOM NAPOLITANO

ROBIN KING IN KING OF PAIN

WRITER: PETER J. TOMASI - ARTIST: RILEY ROSSMO
COLORIST: IVAN PLASCENCIA - LETTERER: ROB LEIGH

B. REX IN BATMANASAURUS REX

WRITER: MARGUERITE BENNETT - ARTIST: JAMAL IGLE
COLORIST: CHRIS SOTOMAYOR - LETTERER: DAVE SHARPE

CASTLE BAT IN THIS MAN THIS CITY

WRITER: FRANK TIERI - ART & COLOR: FRANCESCO FRANCAVILLA
LETTERER: ANDWORLD DESIGN

BATMOBEAST IN ROAD WARRIOR

WRITER/ARTIST: DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON - COLORIST: MIKE SPICER
LETTERER: RUS WOOTON

BABY BATMAN IN I SHALL BECOME

WRITER: GARTH ENNIS - ARTIST: JOËLLE JONES
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COVER BY TONY S. DANIEL & TOMEU MOREY - VARIANT COVER BY KAARE ANDREWS

PRODUCTION DESIGN BY DARRAN ROBINSON

BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER

I AM AWARE OF WHAT
THEY WILL SAY TO ME
BEFORE THEY SAY IT.

THE FIRST WILL ASK IF IT
WORKED. THEN THE SECOND
WILL ASK ME IF I'M HERE.
THE THIRD WILL WANT TO
KNOW IF I CAN HEAR THEM.

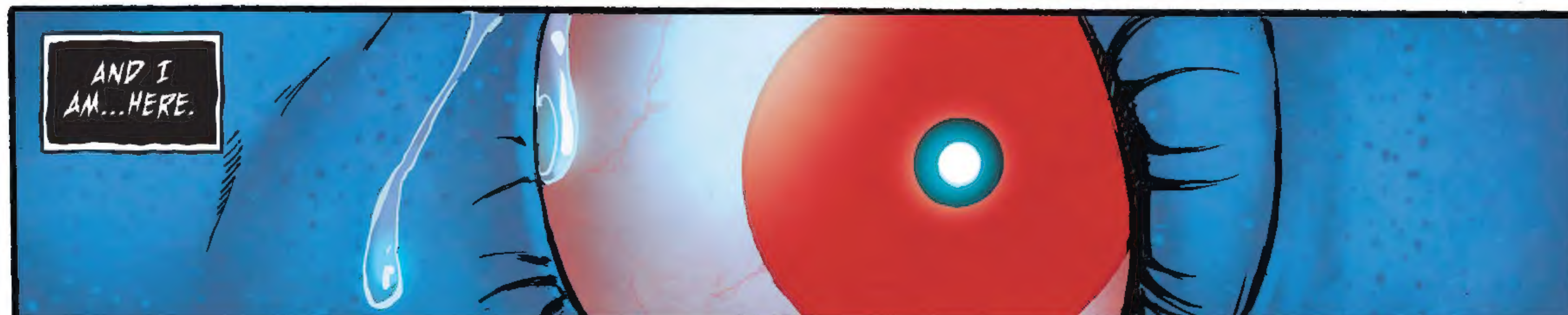


DID IT
WORK?

IZ YOU
THERE,
SER?

SIR, CAN
YOU HEAR
US?

AND I
AM...HERE.



HE'Z
WAKED.

WE FOLLOWED
YOUR INSTRUCTIONS
TO THE LETTER, SIR.
THE IMPLANTATION OF
YOUR **OLD BRAIN**
SEEMS TO BE
SUCCESSFUL.

BY GOD,
IT'S REALLY
YOU ISN'T
IT?



REALLY ME? NO. I
AM NO LONGER THE
ONE WHO LAUGHS...I
AM SOMETHING MORE.

I JUST NEED
TO FIGURE OUT...
WHAT THAT IS.



TO KNOW WHO I WILL BE, I
MUST UNDERSTAND WHO I WAS.
AND ABOVE ALL, FOR A LONG
TIME, I WAS SIMPLY BATMAN.

A HERO BORN
FROM TRAGEDY, FROM
BULLETS FIRED IN A
DARK GOTHAM ALLEY.

I SWORE AN OATH ON
MY PARENTS' GRAVE TO
AVENGE THEIR DEATHS
BY PROTECTING OTHERS
FROM THEIR FATE.

I TRAINED
FOR YEARS TO UPHOLD
THIS OATH, TRAVELING
THE WORLD, PERFECTING
MY BODY AND MIND.

I EMBRACED A
CREATURE THAT HAD
HAUNTED MY YOUTH
AND I TRANSFORMED
MYSELF INTO A
LIVING SYMBOL. A
CAPED CRUSADER.

AND I CHANGED GOTHAM CITY.
WITH INCREDIBLE ALLIES AT MY
SIDE, WE FOUGHT BACK AGAINST
CRIME NIGHT AFTER NIGHT...

...WHETHER WE WERE UP
AGAINST STREET CRIMINALS,
OR VILLAINS LARGER IN
LEGEND THAN EVEN US.

IF I WERE THE BATMAN
OF THE REAL WORLD, OF
EARTH-O, THIS IS WHERE
MY STORY WOULD END.

BUT I AM NOT
BATMAN...





FOR DEEP IN THE DARK MULTIVERSE,
MY STORY DEVIATED FROM THE CORE...

THE DARK MULTIVERSE HAS
ALWAYS BEEN HOME TO THE MOST
TWISTED FEARS OF THE TRUE
EARTH ABOVE. AND THE FEAR
THAT SHAPED ME WAS BATMAN'S
DARKEST TERROR OF ALL.

THE FEAR OF WHAT HE MIGHT
BECOME IF JOKER FINALLY
PUSHED HIM TOO FAR.

IT WAS HIS FINAL JOKE, YOU SEE.
A TOXIN IN HIS HEART, RELEASED
UPON HIS DEATH. A TOXIN THAT
WOULD MAKE WHOEVER KILLED HIM
THE NEXT JOKER.

I CAN STILL HEAR THE
SNAP OF THE CLOWN'S
NECK IN MY HANDS. AND HIS
GASPING LAST LAUGH.

BUT I BECAME SOMETHING
FAR MORE POWERFUL.
BATMAN'S STORY HAD ALWAYS
BEEN ONE OF OVERCOMING
ADVERSITY. WINNING AGAINST
IMPOSSIBLE ODDS.

NOW, WITH
BATMAN'S MIND AND
JOKER'S PITCH-BLACK
HEART, I WAS AN
APEX PREDATOR.

A BATMAN WHO
LAUGHS IS A BATMAN
WHO ALWAYS WINS.



BY THE TIME THE DARK GOD BARBATOS CAME TO ME, I HAD FULLY TAMED AND LEASHED MY WORLD. THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT FOR ME TO CONQUER.

BUT BARBATOS TAUGHT ME THE NATURE OF THE DARK MULTIVERSE. THAT MY WORLD WAS BUT A DREAM, SOMETHING TEMPORARY, AN ABERRATION THAT WOULD CRUMBLE INTO NOTHING ONCE THE REAL BATMAN OVERCAME HIS FEAR OF ME.

STILL, THERE WAS A TRUE, STABLE MULTIVERSE ABOVE, WHERE THE REAL BATMAN LIVED. THE BATMAN OF WHICH ALL BATMEN DOWN HERE WERE TWISTED REFLECTIONS.

HE PLANNED TO DRAG THE MULTIVERSE DOWN INTO THE DARK AND DESTROY IT. I CONVINCED HIM THAT IF HE WANTED TO BRING THE WORLD TO HEEL...HE'D NEED MORE DARK BATMEN.

AND SO I FOUND MY FIRST DARK KNIGHTS. MY OWN JUSTICE LEAGUE OF BATMEN. I HELPED BARBATOS TAKE THE EARTH...BUT I HAD MY OWN AGENDA... MY OWN PLAN.

WHEN THE HEROES OF EARTH-0 WON THEIR BATTLE AGAINST BARBATOS, I WOULD NOT LET MYSELF BE DRAGGED BACK INTO THE DARK.



I HAD SEEN THAT BARBATOS WAS PART
OF A GRAND COSMIC HIERARCHY, WITH
POWER BEYOND MY COMPREHENSION.

I PREDICTED THAT
HIS ACTIONS WOULD FREE
THE GREAT MOTHER OF THE
MULTIVERSE, PERPETUA.

I ENGINEERED A PLAN TO USURP
HER CHOSEN RIGHT-HAND MAN,
LEX LUTHOR, SO THAT AS SHE
ROSE, I WOULD RISE WITH HER.

BUT I KNEW I STILL
LACKED THE POWER TO
FIGHT BACK SHOULD
SHE TURN AGAINST ME.

AND I KNEW I COULD ONLY KEEP
THE HEROES OF EARTH-0 AT HEEL
FOR SO LONG. THAT THE AMAZON
WOULD REBEL AND CUT ME DOWN.

AND SO SHE DID.
AND THERE ENDED THE
STORY OF THE BATMAN
WHO LAUGHS.

BUT I AM NOT
THE ONE WHO LAUGHS
EITHER. NOT ANYMORE...

I AM SOMETHING ELSE,
SOMETHING MADE FROM
THE ONE DARK BATMAN
HE TOLD NO ONE ABOUT.



SEE, WHILE I WAS
STILL HIM, TRAVELING
THE DARK MULTIVERSE
IN SEARCH OF KNIGHTS,
I SAW ONE ECHO OF
BATMAN I HID FROM
EVERYONE.

A BRUCE WAYNE WHO,
AFTER ENCOUNTERING AN
INCREDIBLE ENERGY TIED TO
A BUTTON FROM ANOTHER
UNIVERSE, DECIDED TO
REPLICATE THAT POWER.



I WATCHED HIM BUILD THE
INTRINSIC FIELD GENERATOR,
UNWARE OF ITS TRUE POWER
OR WHAT IT MIGHT LEAD TO.



I WATCHED AS THE
EXPERIMENT BEGAN
TO GO AWRY...



...AND AS HE WENT
TO SET IT RIGHT.

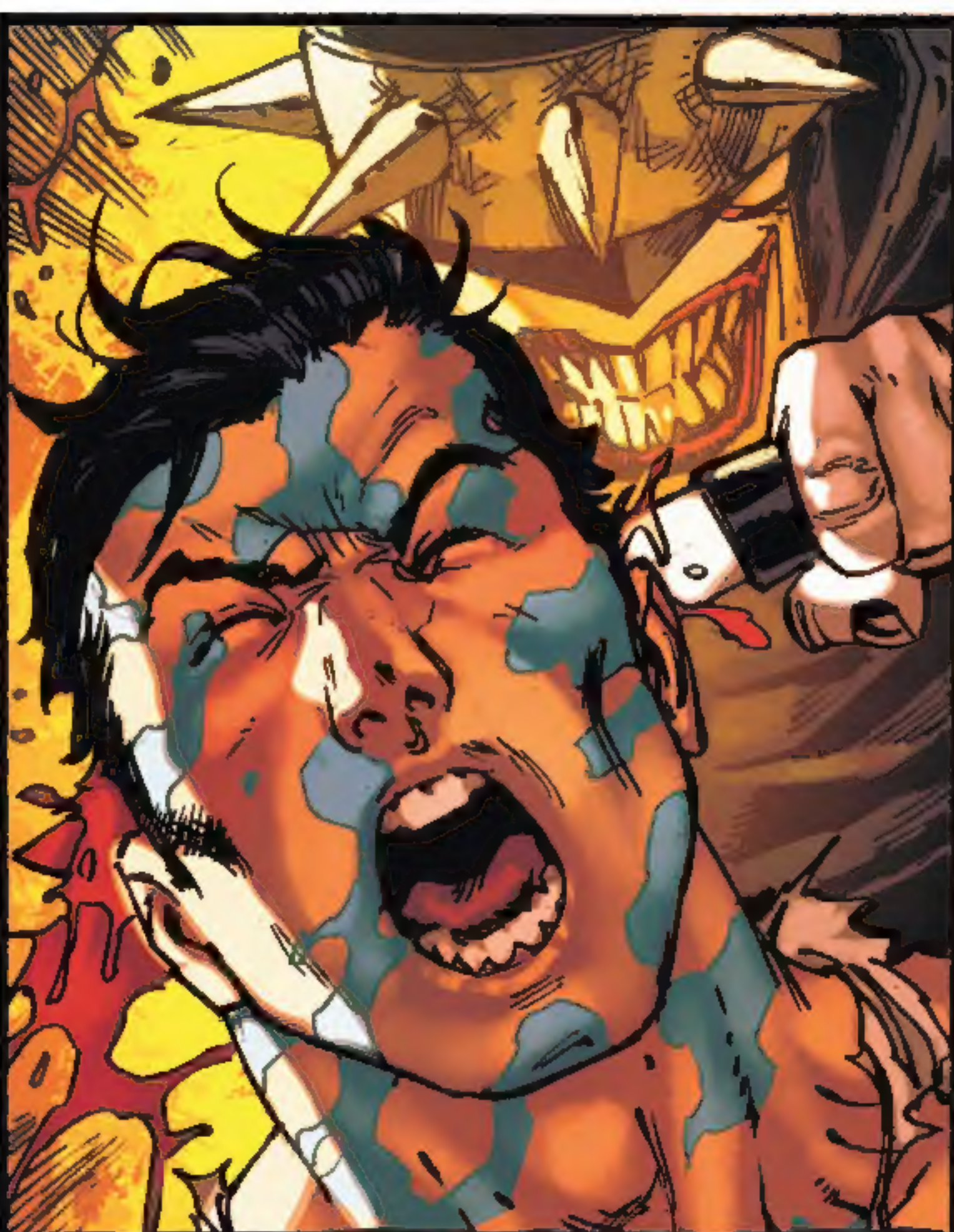


I ACTIVATED
THE MACHINE.

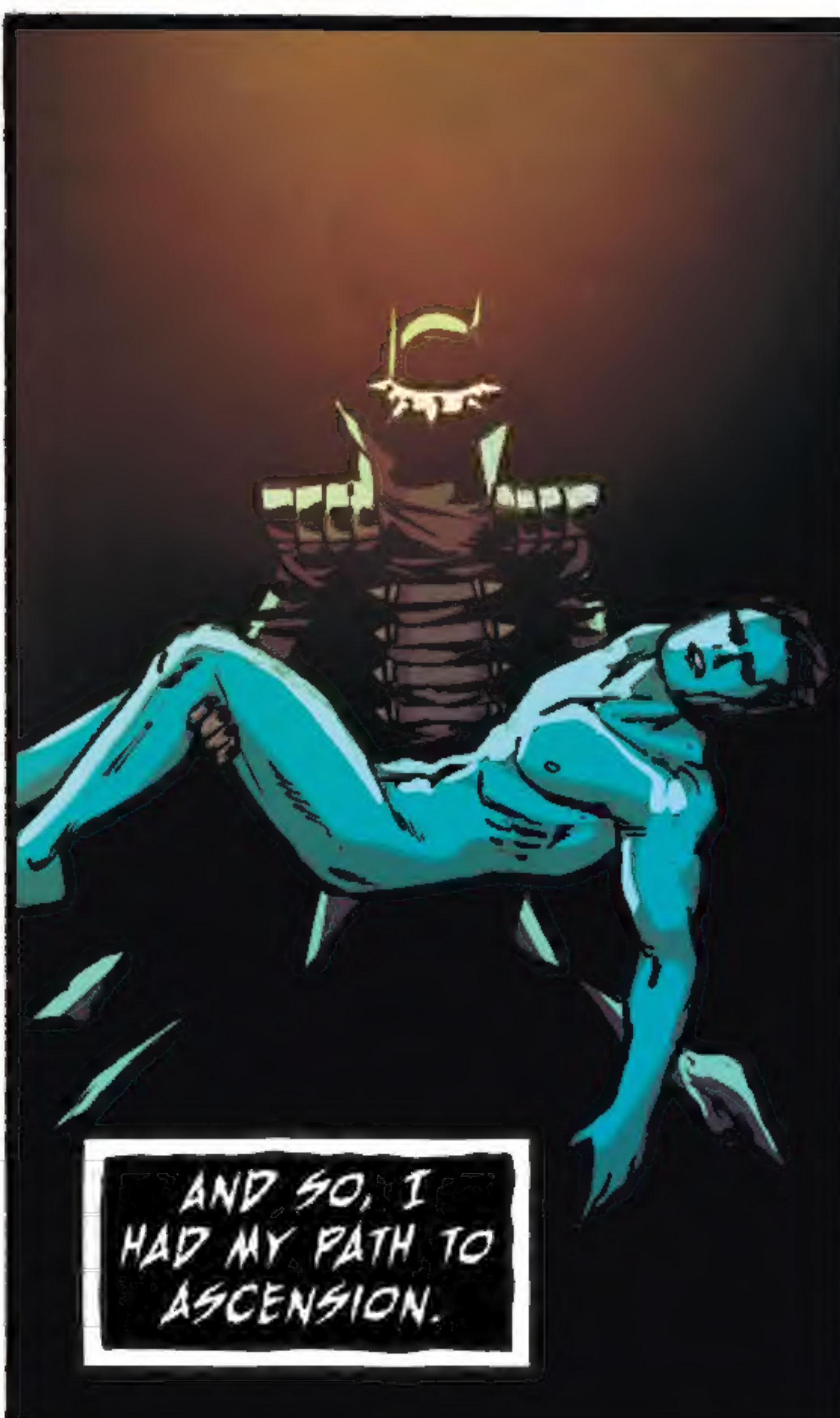
IT TOOK MONTHS FOR THAT BATMAN
TO PULL HIS BODY BACK TOGETHER,
MOLECULE BY MOLECULE.



A POWER STRONG ENOUGH
TO CREATE AND DESTROY
WORLDS. A BATMANHATTAN.



IT TOOK SECONDS FOR MY
ENERGY KNIFE TO LOBOTOMIZE
HIM, BEFORE HE GREW POWERFUL
ENOUGH TO SEE ME COMING.



AND SO, I
HAD MY PATH TO
ASCENSION.

A blue-skinned, muscular figure with black hair and a black loincloth is floating in space. The figure is surrounded by numerous Earths of varying sizes, some showing different landscapes and weather patterns. The background is a dark, starry space with some nebulae and galaxies. The figure's expression is one of intense focus and determination.

NOW, I FEEL MY AWARENESS EXPANDING
AS MY MIND TAKES HOLD OF ITS NEW BODY.
AND I AM READY TO TAKE MY FINAL FORM.

AND SO I REACH OUT AND FEEL THE
DARK MULTIVERSE AS IF IT WERE ALL
A PART OF ME. I AM AWARE NOT ONLY
OF MY ENTIRE LIFE, BUT THE LIFE OF
EVERY TWISTED BATMAN IN THE DARK.

I WILL PULL ASPECTS
INTO MYSELF FROM THE MOST
TERRIFYING, THE MOST VICIOUS,
AND BE SOMETHING NEW.

YES, I WILL BE A CULMINATION
OF HUMAN EVIL. AND A COSMIC
WEAPON OF INFINITE POWER,
DESIGNED TO WIN AT ANY COST.
I DRAW IN THE MANY LIFETIMES
OF EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE.

AND SO
I EXPLORE...
BATMAN AFTER
BATMAN.

IN MY OWN WAY, I
BECOME EACH OF THEM.
I LEARN, FROM THEIR
DARK NIGHTMARE LIVES,
EACH OF THE WAYS A
BATMAN COULD BE
PUSHED TO FAIL.


IT IS LIKE ALL OF MY YEARS OF TRAVELING
THE WORLD, TRAINING TO BECOME BATMAN,
HAPPENING AT ONCE. ALL OF THESE DARK
REFLECTIONS, THESE DARK KNIGHTS, ARE
MY TEACHERS, AND YET I AM GREATER
THAN ANY OF THEM.

AND I STITCH THEIR EXPERIENCES AND SKILLS
INTO MY MIND, BECOMING MORE AND MORE
POWERFUL AS I PUSH DEEPER INTO THE DARK.

UNTIL SUDDENLY
IT DAWNS ON ME.

A REVELATION. CLEAR AS DAY.
A SIMPLE TRUTH I NEVER SAW
BEFORE THIS MOMENT.





BATMAN HAS ALWAYS
BEEN A REACTIONARY
IDEA.

HE WAS BORN
IN RESPONSE TO
THOSE GUNSHOTS
IN THE ALLEY.

AND JUST AS HE IS A REACTION,
SO TOO ARE ALL THE TWISTED
BATMEN OF THE DARK.

EVEN THE MOST DOMINANT IS STILL
A REACTION TO SOME FEAR THAT HAS
SHAPED HIM, BUILT HIM INTO A NEWER,
CRUELER INCARNATION, PERFECTLY
DESIGNED TO OVERCOME IT.

NOW, UNDERSTANDING THIS, I KNOW
THAT I AM NOT A BATMAN OF ANY
KIND. NOT A BATMAN WHO LAUGHS,
NOT A BATMANHATTAN, NOT EVEN A
CULMINATION OF ALL DARK BATMEN.

I AM MORE. AND TO BE
MORE, I MUST NOT BE A
REACTION. I MUST BE THE
THING THAT CREATES
THE REACTION.

I WILL BE
THE BULLET.

THE MULTIVERSE WILL
BE THE DARK ALLEY.

AND ITS WORLDS WILL FALL
LIKE PEARLS BEFORE ME.



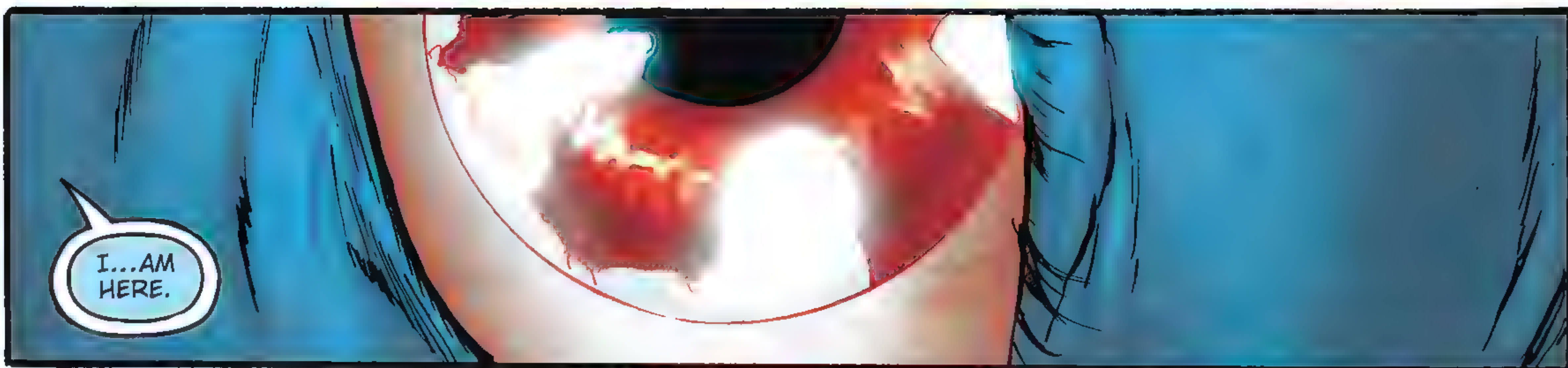
MY MIND CRACKLES
WITH COSMIC AWARENESS.

I HAVE A SENSE OF THE
POWER THAT WILL SOON BE IN
MY GRASP. AND I SEE WHAT I
STILL HAVE TO OVERCOME TO
TAKE IT ALL IN HAND.

THE SPEEDSTER WITH THE TOUCH OF
MANHATTAN... WALLY WEST. I WILL TAKE
HIS POWER. AND THEN I WILL RISE UP
AND CREATE MY OWN MULTIVERSE...

A MULTIVERSE THAT
LAUGHS... EVERY PLANET LIKE
A BULLET TO BE FIRED AT.
GODS LIKE PERPETUA.

A MULTIVERSE THAT WILL EAT ALL
OTHERS, REALITY AFTER REALITY,
UNTIL THERE IS NO BEING IN
THE OMNIVERSE... BUT ME. THE
DARKEST KNIGHT OF ALL.



I AM HERE

SCOTT SNYDER, JAMES TYNION IV,
& JOSHUA WILLIAMSON **writers**
TONY S. DANIEL **artist**
MARCELO MAIOLO **colors**
TOM NAPOLITANO **letters**

END.

BANG.

THIS IS
ALFRED THADDEUS
CRANE PENNYWORTH
RECORDING ON LATE
MASTER WAYNE'S
MEDICAL NOTES
RECORDER.

NOT IN MY
WILDEST DREAMS COULD
I EVER HAVE IMAGINED THAT
WAYNE MANOR--MY HOME
FOR SO MANY YEARS--
WOULD BECOME AN ACTUAL
BATTLEGROUND.

BUT IT
HAS...

...AND
A **BLOOD-
STAINED**
ONE AT
THAT.

THE MOST
SICKENING
FACT IN ALL
THIS...

...IS THAT
THE **TRUE**
ENEMY WAS
ME.

EVERY OMEN,
EVERY SIGN, I IGNORED.
BECAUSE HE WAS
MY BOY TOO...

**BRUCE
WAYNE.**

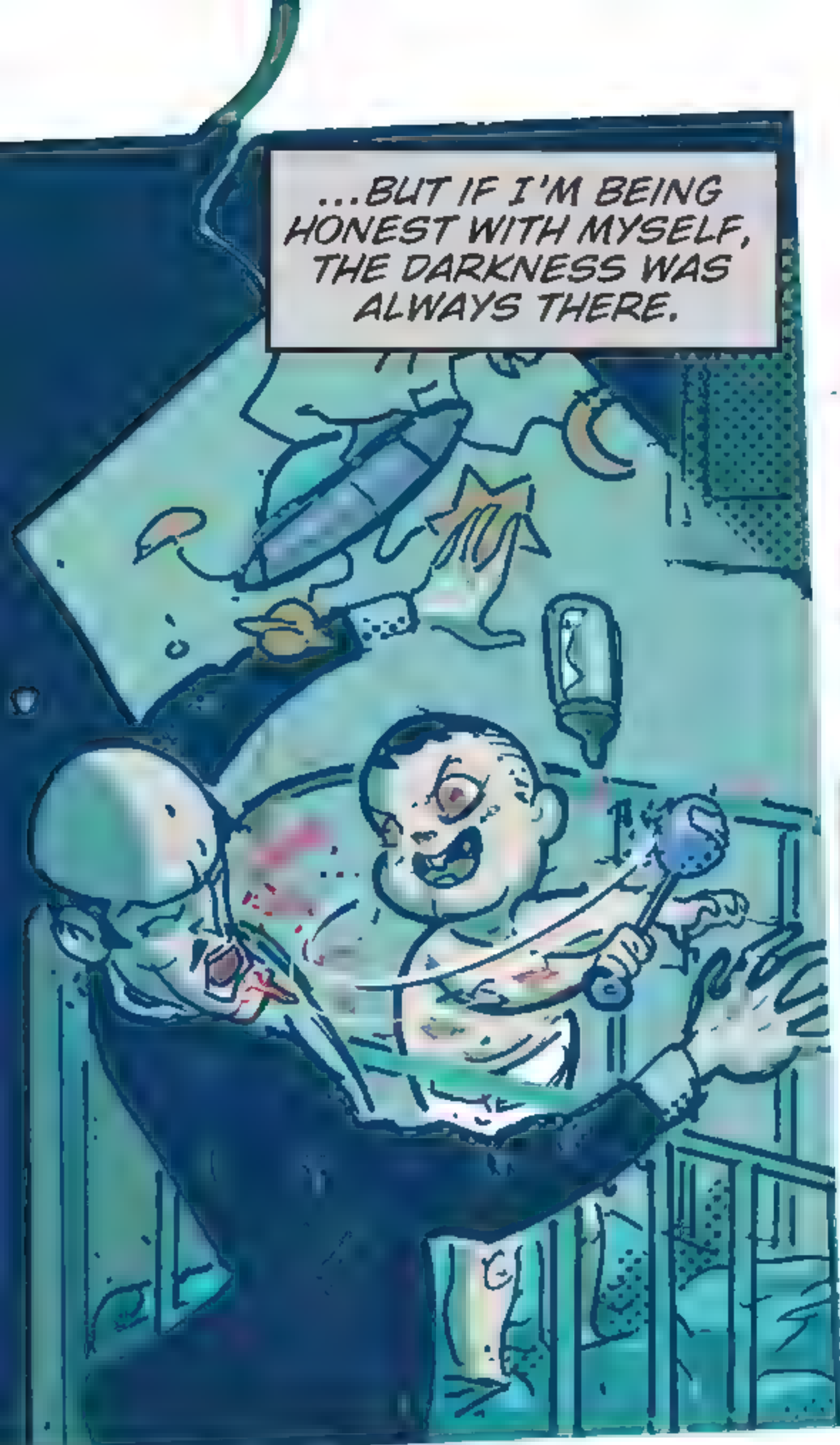
AND ONLY
BY THE GRACE OF
GOD WAS I ABLE
TO SUBDUCE HIM.

MOMENTARILY.

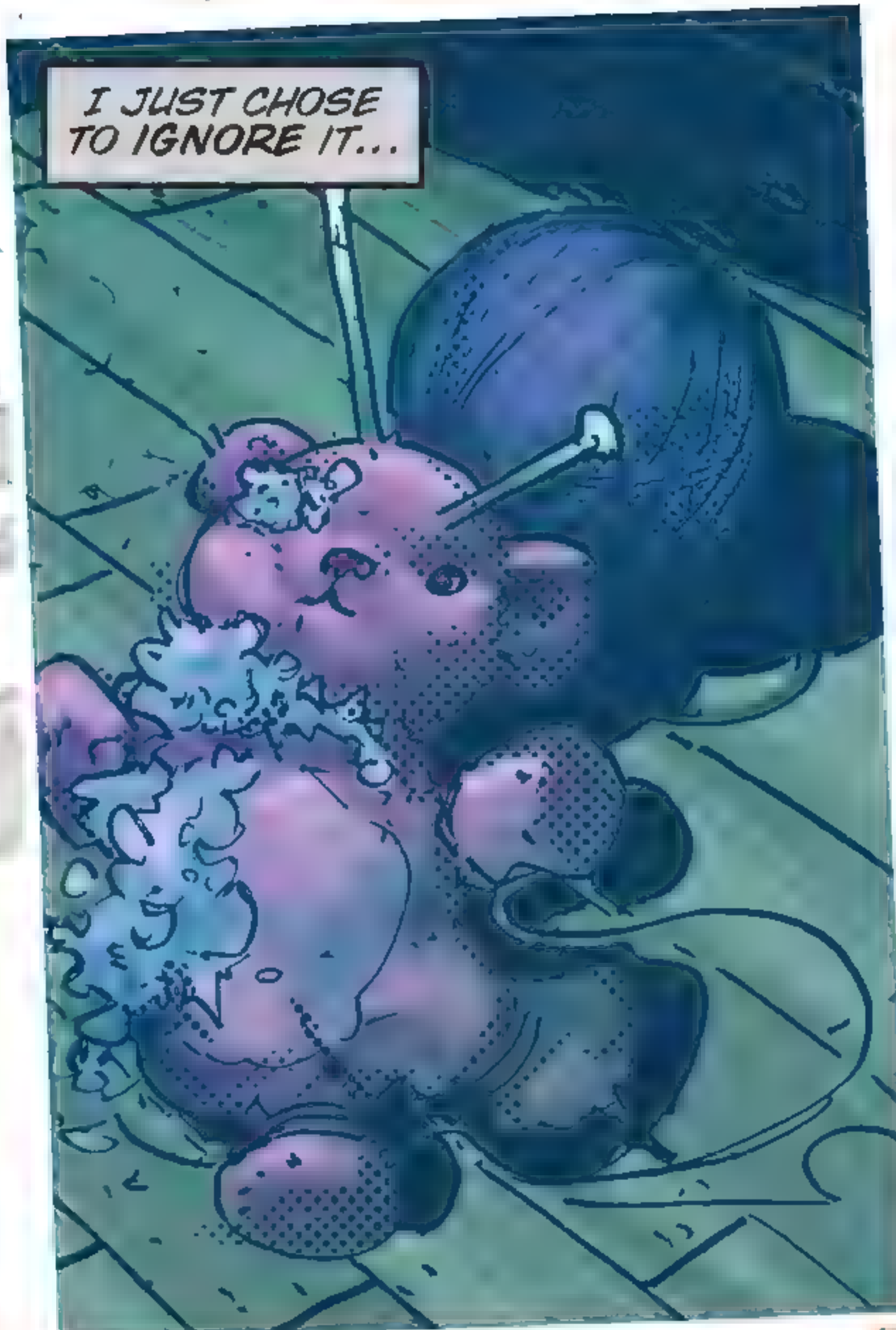
IN CASE MY
EFFORTS ARE IN **VAIN**,
I WANTED TO LEAVE
SOMETHING BEHIND TO
WARN GOTHAM...

...THAT ITS **PRINCE** IS
QUITE MAD... YOU WON'T
BELIEVE ME, I KNOW. HE'S
TOO SMART TO LET
IT SHOW...

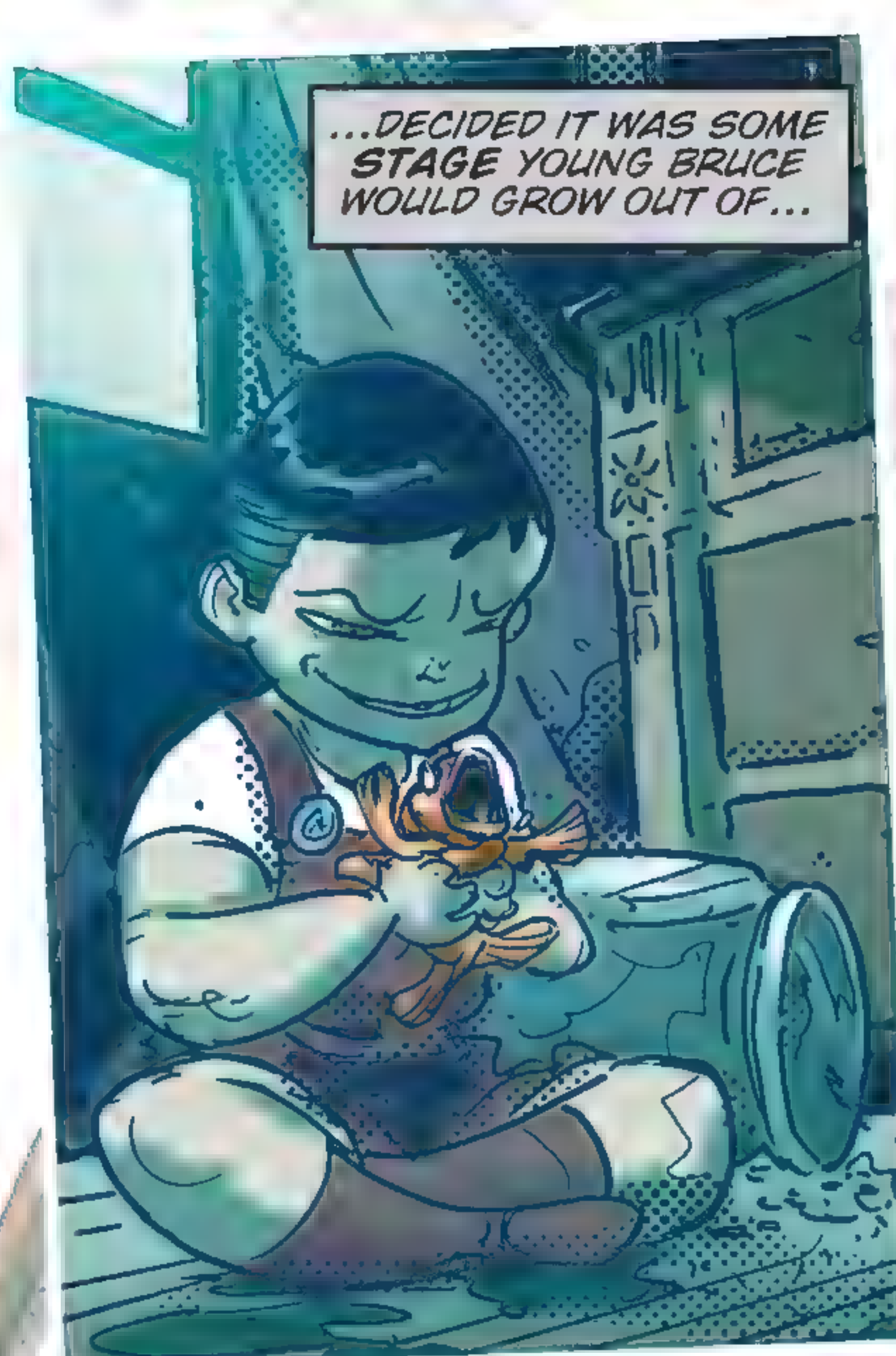
...BUT IF I'M BEING HONEST WITH MYSELF, THE DARKNESS WAS ALWAYS THERE.



I JUST CHOSE TO IGNORE IT...



...DECIDED IT WAS SOME STAGE YOUNG BRUCE WOULD GROW OUT OF...



...INSTEAD OF SOMETHING HE WAS GROWING INTO. IT COULDN'T BE THE REAL HIM.



AND YET THE JOY THAT FLASHED IN HIS EYES WHEN HE CAUSED PAIN...



...AND CHAOS.

STILL, HE ALWAYS HAD AN EXCUSE.



SOME TEARFUL EXPLANATION. AS AN ACTOR MYSELF, I CAN SAY HE WAS GOOD, BRILLIANT EVEN.



THE MASK HE WORE TO HIDE WHAT HE WAS FROM THE WORLD...MY GOD.



BUT THE REAL MASK, HIS TRUE COWL, WAS ME. OVER AND OVER I COVERED FOR HIM...



...UNTIL THAT NIGHT.
I KNEW IT HAD TO STOP.

I WOULD TELL THE WAYNES, FAST AND TRUE
AS A SONGBIRD. MAYBE WITH HELP, BRUCE
COULD HEAL. NO MORE SHADOWS. THE
TRUTH WOULD HERALD A NEW SPRING.

BEWARE THE GRAY GHOST

C'MON,
THIS IS A
NO PARKING
ZONE!

GO AROUND
THE CORNER AND
TEXT YOUR PEOPLE
TO MEET YOU
THERE.

BEWARE

I'M AWAITING THE
WAYNES, SIR. IF YOU
COULD JUST...

THE SHOW
LETS OUT IN ONLY
FIVE MINUTES,
OFFICER...

I DON'T CARE
IF THEY'RE THE
ROCKEFELLERS,
BUDDY, MOVE
ALONG.

YOU ARE
BEING RUDE AND
IMPATIENT. WHAT'S
YOUR BADGE
NUMBER?

051939.
GORDON,
JAMES.
NOW MOVE
IT.

PARKING
LAWS APPLY TO
EVERYONE IN THIS
CITY, EVEN THE
ONES WHO THINK
THEY OWN IT.

WHERE'S
THE CAR?

THE POLICE
MOVED ALFRED
AND OTHER
WAITING CARS
AROUND THE
CORNER.

I WOULDN'T
HAVE COME IF
I'D KNOWN IT WAS
IN BLACK AND WHITE.
THE BLOOD LOOKS
FAKE.

THE FILM'S
A CLASSIC,
BRUCE.

YEAH,
CLASSICALLY
BORING.

NO NOISE.
NO PROBLEMS,
FOLKS.

WHAT
IN--

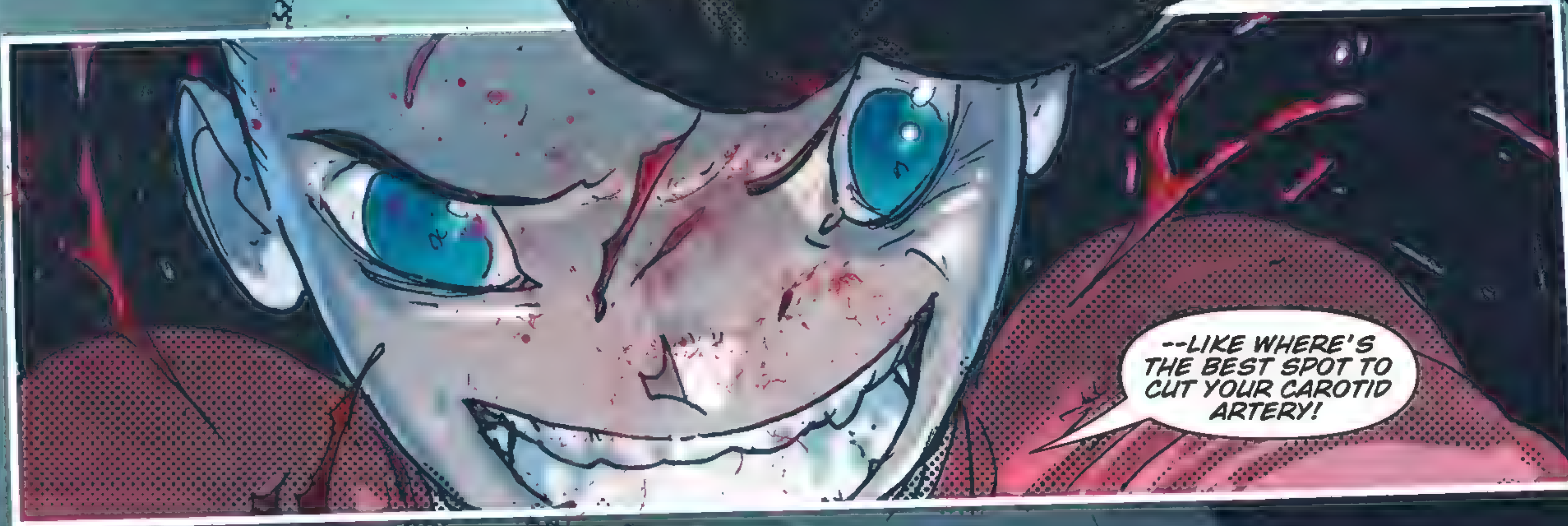
GIVE ME THE MONEY,
WATCHES, AND THAT PEARL
NECKLACE AND EVERYONE
GETS HOME SAFE SO THE
SPOILED BRAT CAN ONE DAY
INHERIT EVERYTHING.

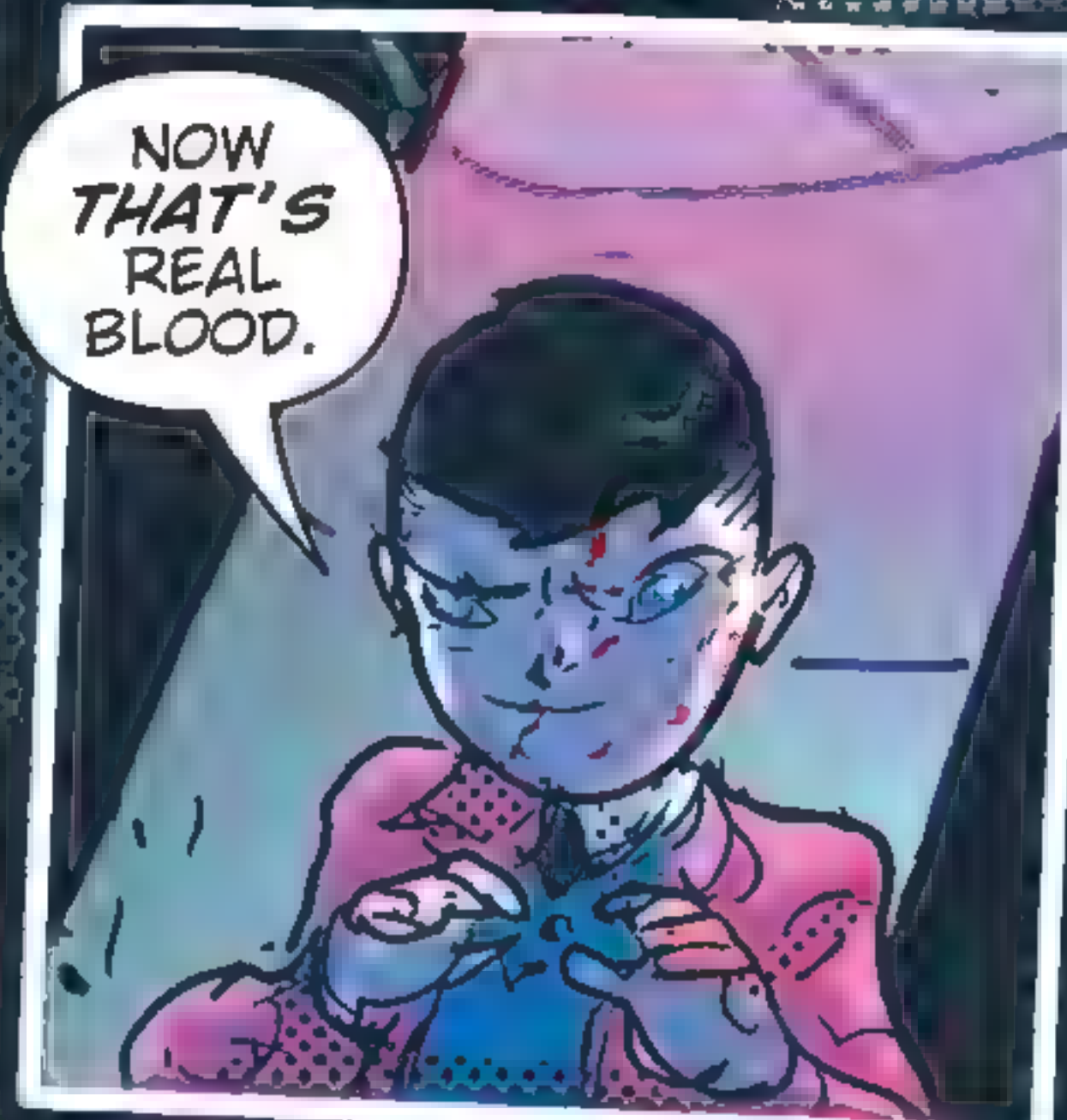
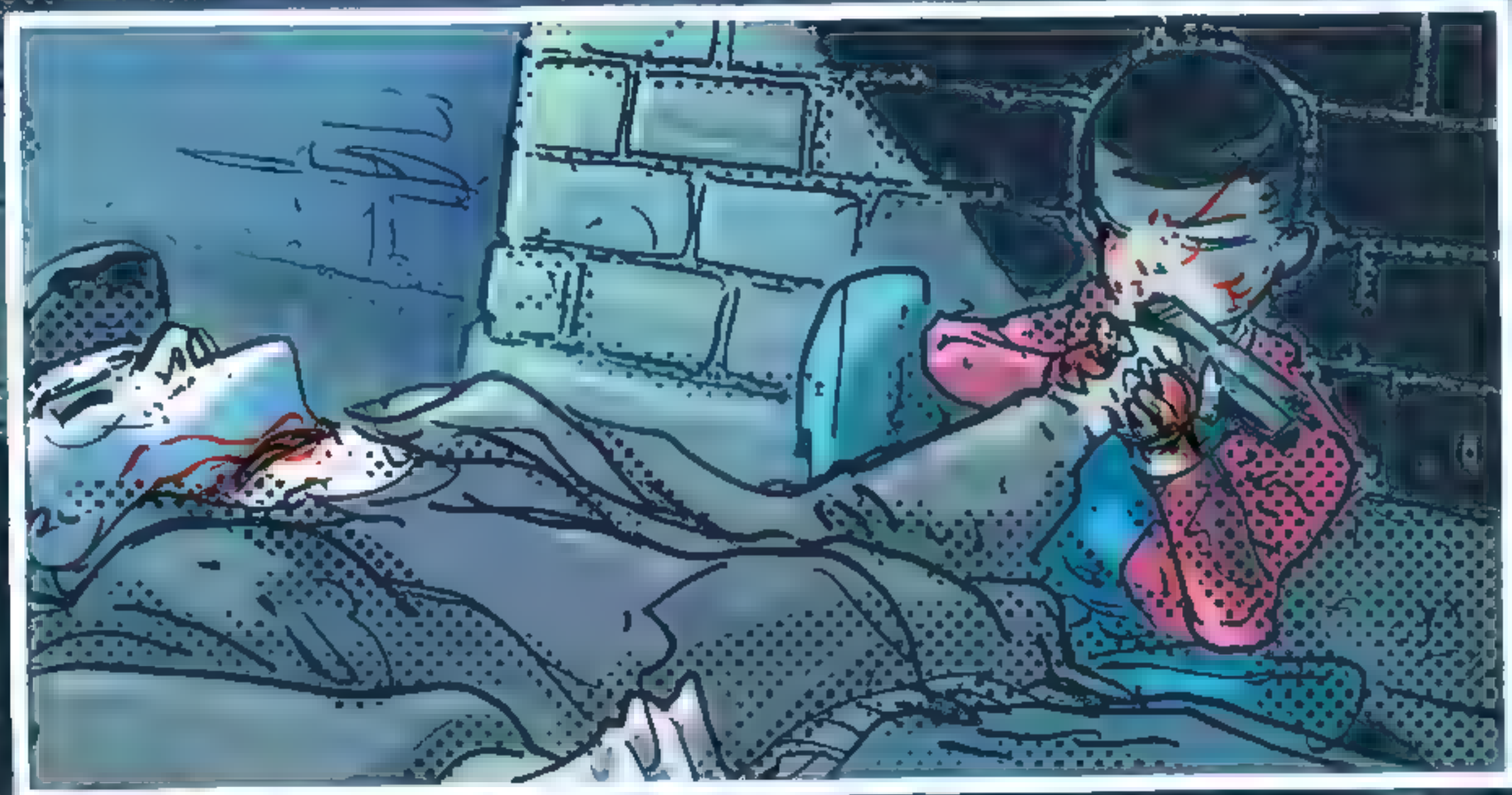
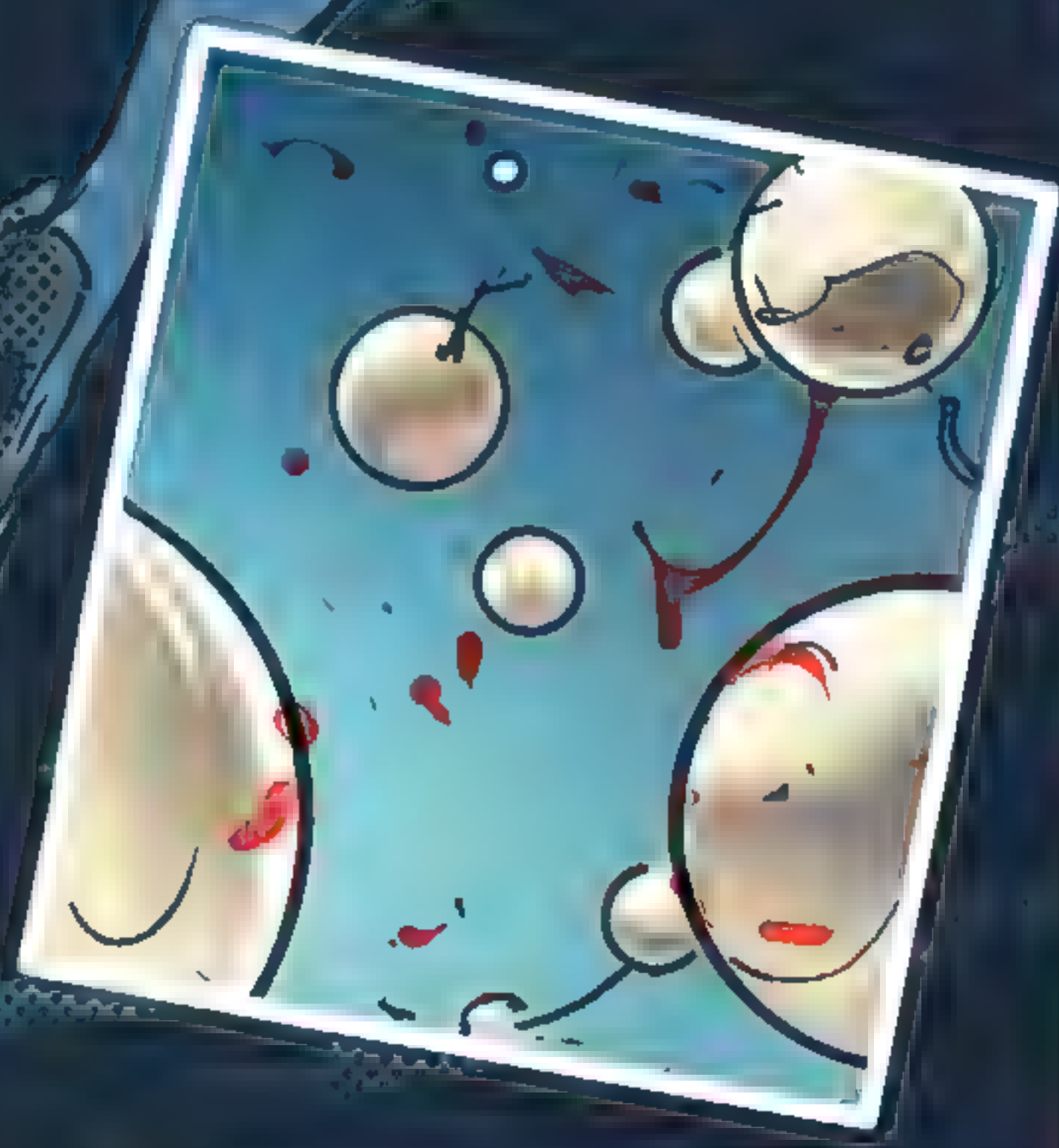
CAN WE
PLEASE NOT GET
INTO ANOTHER
ARGUM--

Mmm,
A GLOCK 17.
GOOD
CHOICE.

CARRIES TWO
MORE ROUNDS THAN
A BERETTA AND IS
A HALF POUND
LIGHTER.

HA,
I LIKE HIM.
KID KNOWS
HIS GUNS.





HE NEVER SAID WHAT HAPPENED IN THAT ALLEY, BUT I KNEW...

...AND I KNEW I HAD TO STOP HIM.

IMPRESSIVE.

AND WHAT IS THAT YOU FIND SO IMPRESSIVE, MASTER BRUCE?

MY PARENTS' ASSETS AND HOLDINGS THAT'LL SOON BE ALL IN MY NAME.

IN EIGHT YEARS THEY WILL BE IN YOUR NAME.

NEED I REMIND YOU, AT THE MOMENT YOU'RE ONLY TEN.

BINGG
BONG

YES?

EVENING.

Um, I WAS THE FIRST OFFICER AT THE SCENE OF THE WAYNES' MURDER YESTERDAY, AND... WELL...

...MY PHONE. WHEN I GOT HOME, I FOUND SOMEONE HAD SHARED FILES WITH ME. THEY WERE... ENCRYPTED BUT MY DAUGHTER HELPED ME OPEN THEM.

IF WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT THE BOY IN THIS HOUSE IS TRUE...

IT'S ALL TRUE. EVERY--

NO!

GAAHH!

SAWINKK

Gaakk...

JUGULAR HIT.

COP'S NOT WALKING AWAY FROM THAT.

BOOM

AND NEITHER ARE YOU, PENNYWORTH!

AND SO THE BATTLE BEGAN.

IT LASTED AN HOUR.

UNTIL I FINALLY FOUND THE TRANQUILIZER GUN I HAD BOUGHT TO ABATE MY MISGIVINGS AND FEARS...

...OF A HORRIFIC NIGHT JUST LIKE THIS COMING TO PASS.

I HAVE TAKEN MASTER BRUCE DOWN OUTSIDE ON THE PATIO.

I *SHOT* SEVERAL TRANQ DARTS INTO HIS SKIN. THAT WILL KEEP HIM UNCONSCIOUS UNTIL AT LEAST--

HOW DO YOU LIKE MY NEW UNIFORM, PENNYWORTH?!

ASH

UGNN!

STAY BACK!

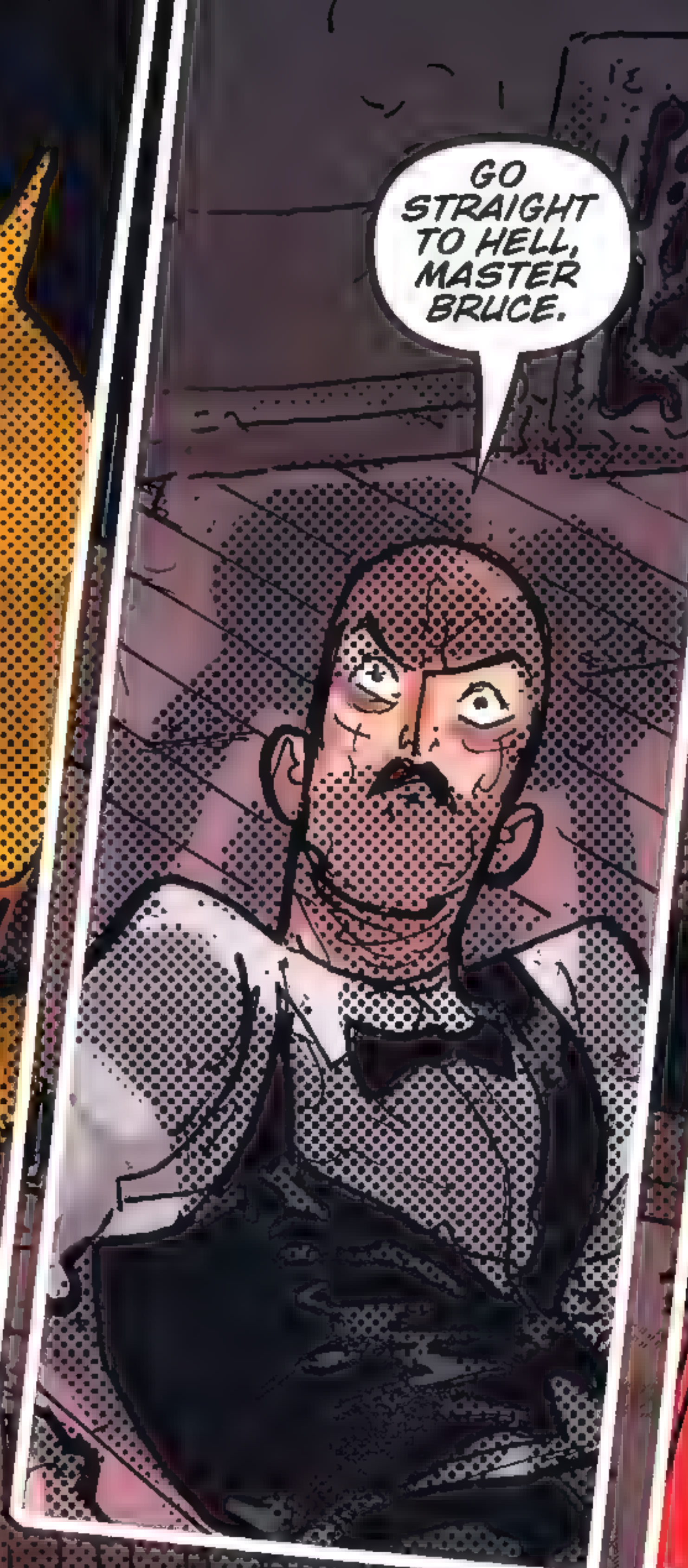
THANK YOU, ALFRED!

FOR PROTECTING ME ALL THIS TIME...

...KEEPING ME SAFE...



...UNTIL
I WAS
READY.



GO
STRAIGHT
TO HELL,
MASTER
BRUCE.



AFTER
YOU, OLD
FRIEND.



DING DING
DINGG

HEAR
THAT?

IT'S THE
SOUND OF THE
ROBIN KING, AND
A NEW SPRING
IS COMING.

KING OF PAIN

PETER J. TOMASI STORY AND WORDS RILEY ROSSMO ARTIST
IVAN PLASCENCIA COLORIST ROB LEIGH LETTERER

END.

ARKHAM ASYLUM.

WE THOUGHT
HIM MAD.

WHAT ELSE COULD
HE BE BUT MAD?

THEY SAY HIS OWN BAT-
CAVE SWALLOWED HIM ALIVE,
CRUSHING HIM BENEATH ITS
COLLAPSING STONE WALLS.

ALL HE HAD DONE AND
BEEN AND LEFT UNDONE--
CAME DOWN TO THIS.

HIS TREASURE VAULT,
BECAME HIS TOMB.

GNASHING HIS TEETH IN
THE DARKNESS, HIS HANDS
BROKEN, ARMS USELESS...

...BUT THAT MAGNIFICENT
BRAIN STILL FIRING,
ELECTRIC, AGAINST
THE DARKNESS
RISING IN HIS EYES.

HE HAD WASTED SO MUCH
TIME ON THEM AND THESIS,
PLOTS AND PLANS.

HE HAD WASTED
SO MUCH OF HIS
LIFE ON KEEPING
US ALIVE.

WHY BE A BAT, WHEN
ONE CAN BE A MAN?

WHY BE A MAN, WHEN
ONE CAN BE A KING?

BATMAN AS A DINO REX

MARGUERITE
BENNETT
WRITER
JAMAL IGLE
ARTIST
CHRIS
SOTOMAYOR
COLORS
DAVE SHARPE
LETTERS

ALL HAIL THE
B. REX.

ONCE, WE
THOUGHT
HIM MAD...

...BUT NOW,
WE KNOW.

END.

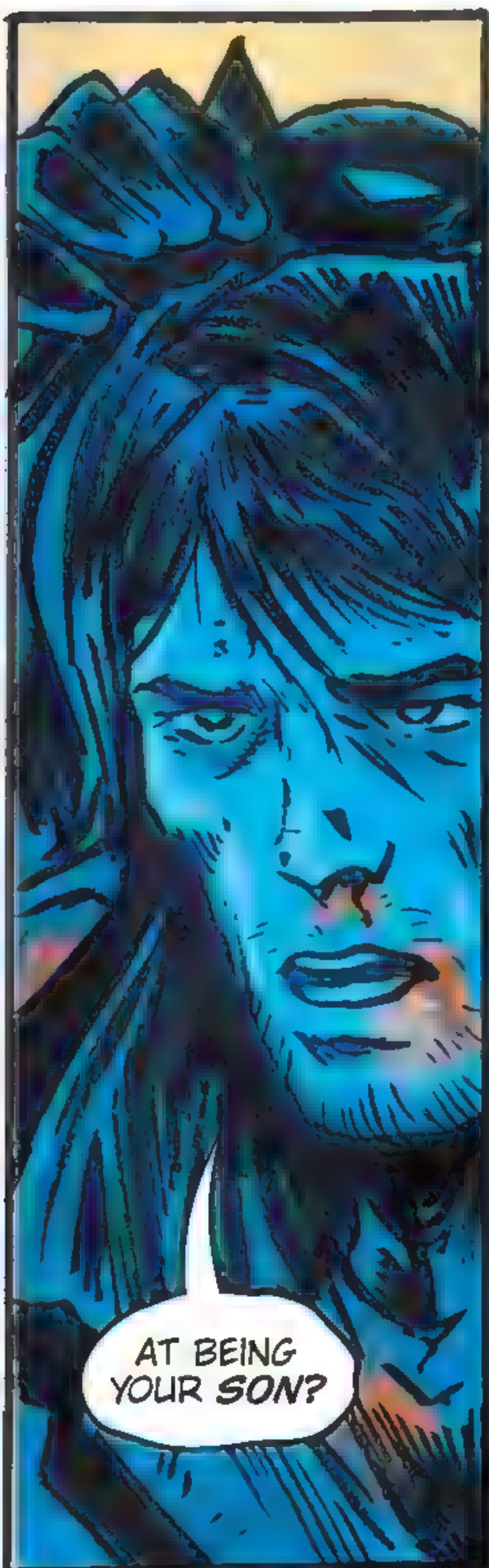






WATCHING
HOW MUCH
I'VE *FAILED*
AT EVERY-
THING?

FAILED AT
BEING BATMAN.
AT PROTECTING
YOUR CITY.



AT BEING
YOUR *SON*?



YOU'RE A BIG
BOY NOW, DAMIAN.
DO YOU WANT ME TO
TELL YOU WHAT YOU
WANT TO HEAR...

...OR DO YOU
WANT ME TO TELL
YOU THE *TRUTH*?



AND WHAT TRUTH
IS THAT? THAT I'M
NOT DICK, BARBARA,
JASON, OR TIM? WELL,
THEY'RE ALL *DEAD*,
FATHER.

OR IS IT
MORE THAN
THAT? IS IT
THAT I'M
NOT...

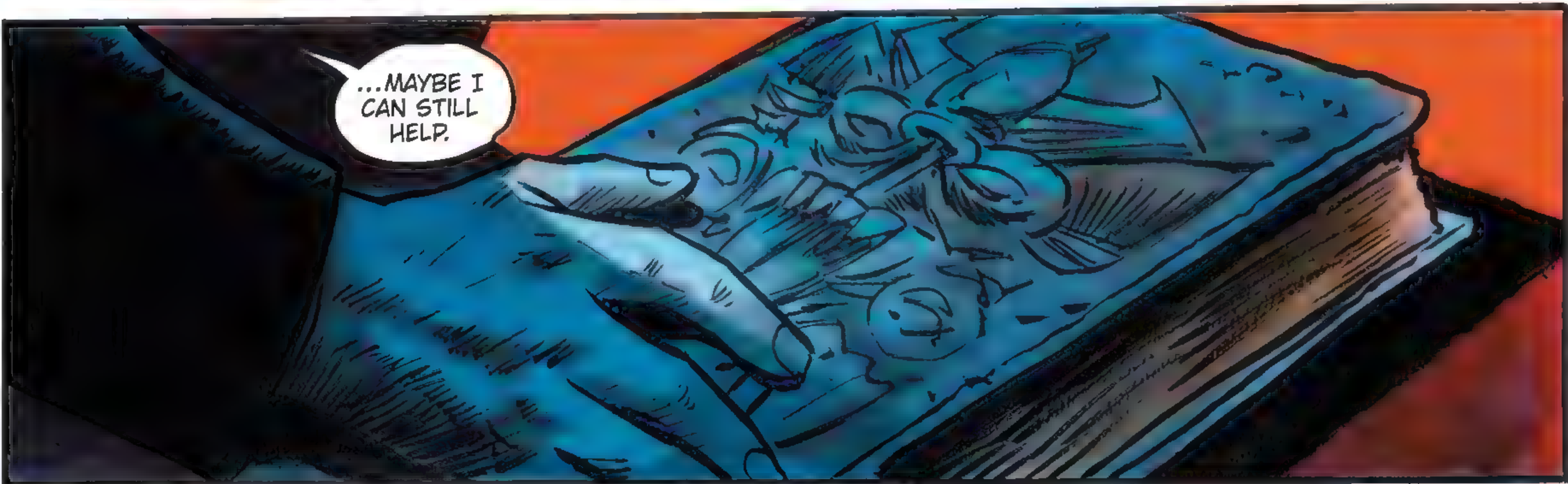
...YOU?



YOU DON'T
HAVE TO BE
ME, SON.



BUT THE TRUTH
IS, YOU'RE NOT
GETTING THE JOB
DONE. AND WHILE I
MAY NOT BE ABLE
TO PUT THE COWL
ON ANYMORE...



...MAYBE I
CAN STILL
HELP.

"THIS WEATHERED OLD BOOK MAY ACTUALLY BE THE ANSWER TO OUR PRAYERS, SO TO SPEAK."

"DURING THE 1600s, WHEN GOTHAM WAS STILL YOUNG, IT WOULD SEE THE FEVEROUS RISE OF A VERY DEADLY CULT."

"THIS CULT WOULD ASCRIBE TO ONE MAIN MANTRA..."

"...THAT THE ANCIENT NATIVE AMERICAN BAT GOD THEY WORSHIPPED DEMANDED THEIR UNDYING DEVOTION..."

"...AND THEIR SACRIFICE."

"THEY BELIEVED THE GREATER THE LOVE FOR THE SACRIFICE, THE MORE THEIR GOD WOULD REWARD THEM..."

"...THAT THE VERY BLOOD OF THOSE SACRIFICES SOAKED INTO THE LAND, BRINGING THEM CLOSER TO IT."

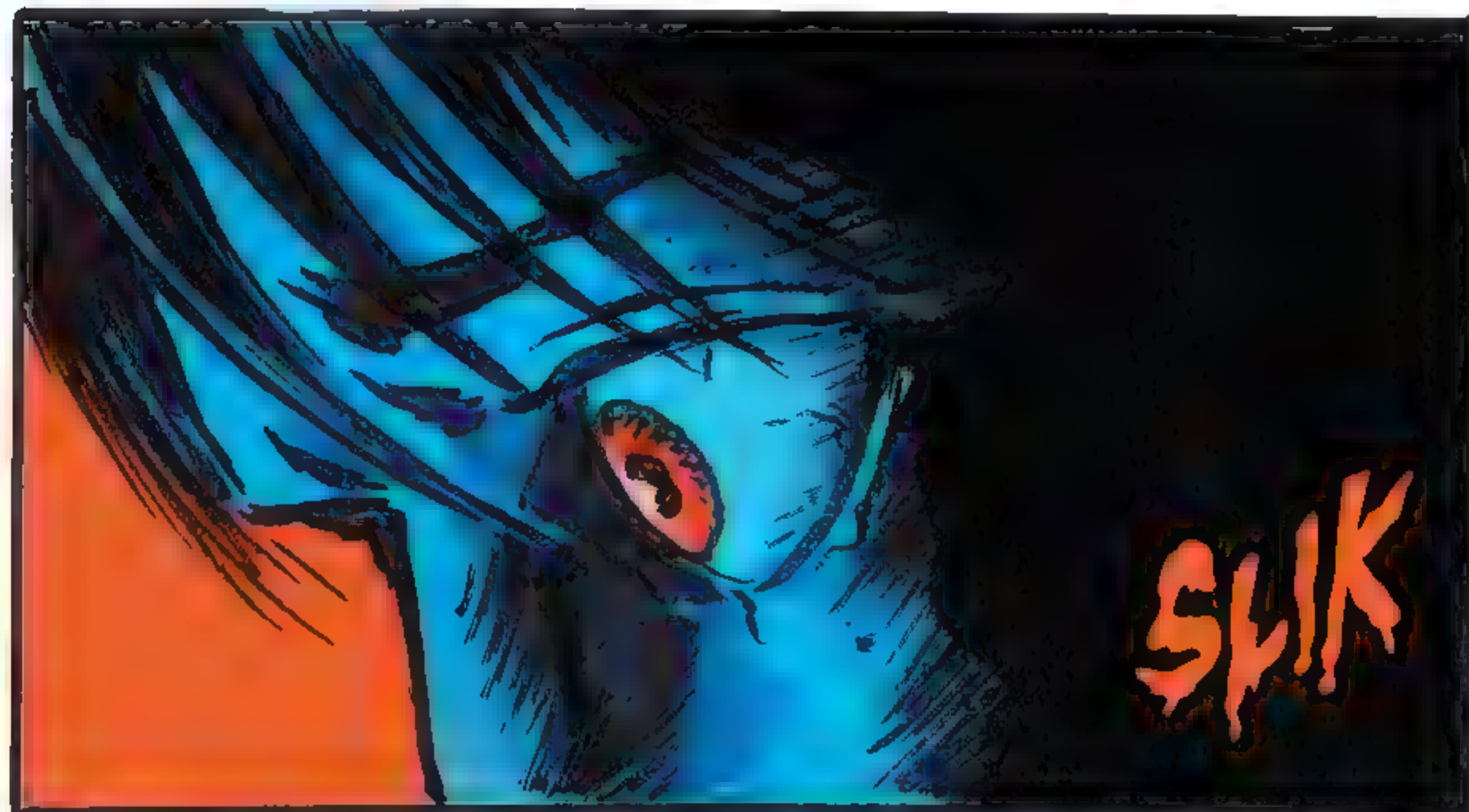
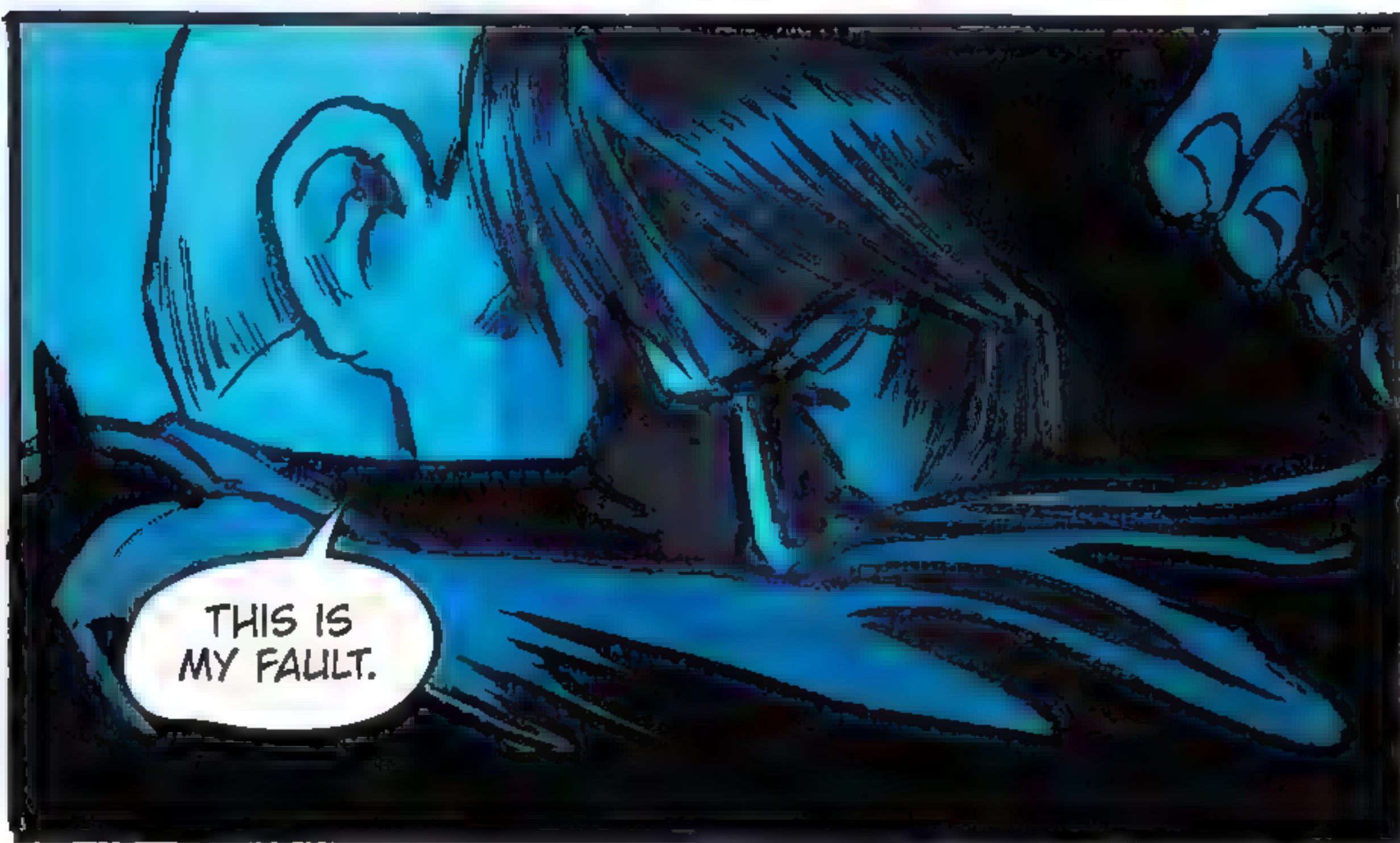
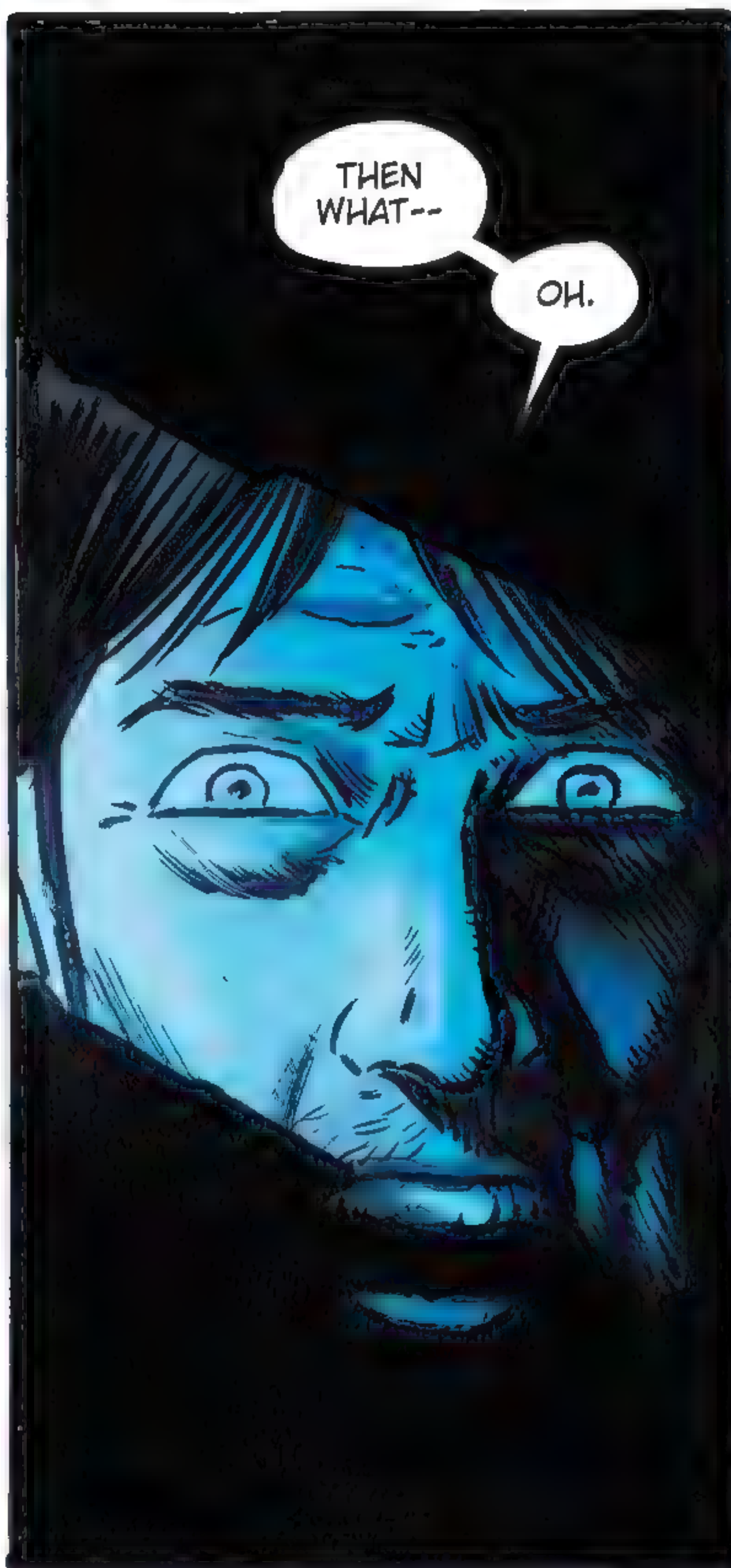
"MAKING THEM PART OF IT."

"MAKING THEM PART OF GOTHAM ITSELF."

FRAN
CIVIL
4F20

AAAAHHHH

HHHHHH





AND SO EVERY
PART OF WHAT
I LOVE...

...EVERY STREET
LIGHT ON EVERY
CORNER...

...EVERY BRICK
IN EVERY
BUILDING...

RUNNING

...EVERY CRACK
IN EVERY
SIDEWALK...

...IS ME NOW.



IN ORDER
TO SAVE MY
CITY...

...NOW I HAVE
BECOME MY
CITY.

I HAVE BEEN
AND ALWAYS WILL
BE GOTHAM.

FRAN
CAVIL
LAE 20

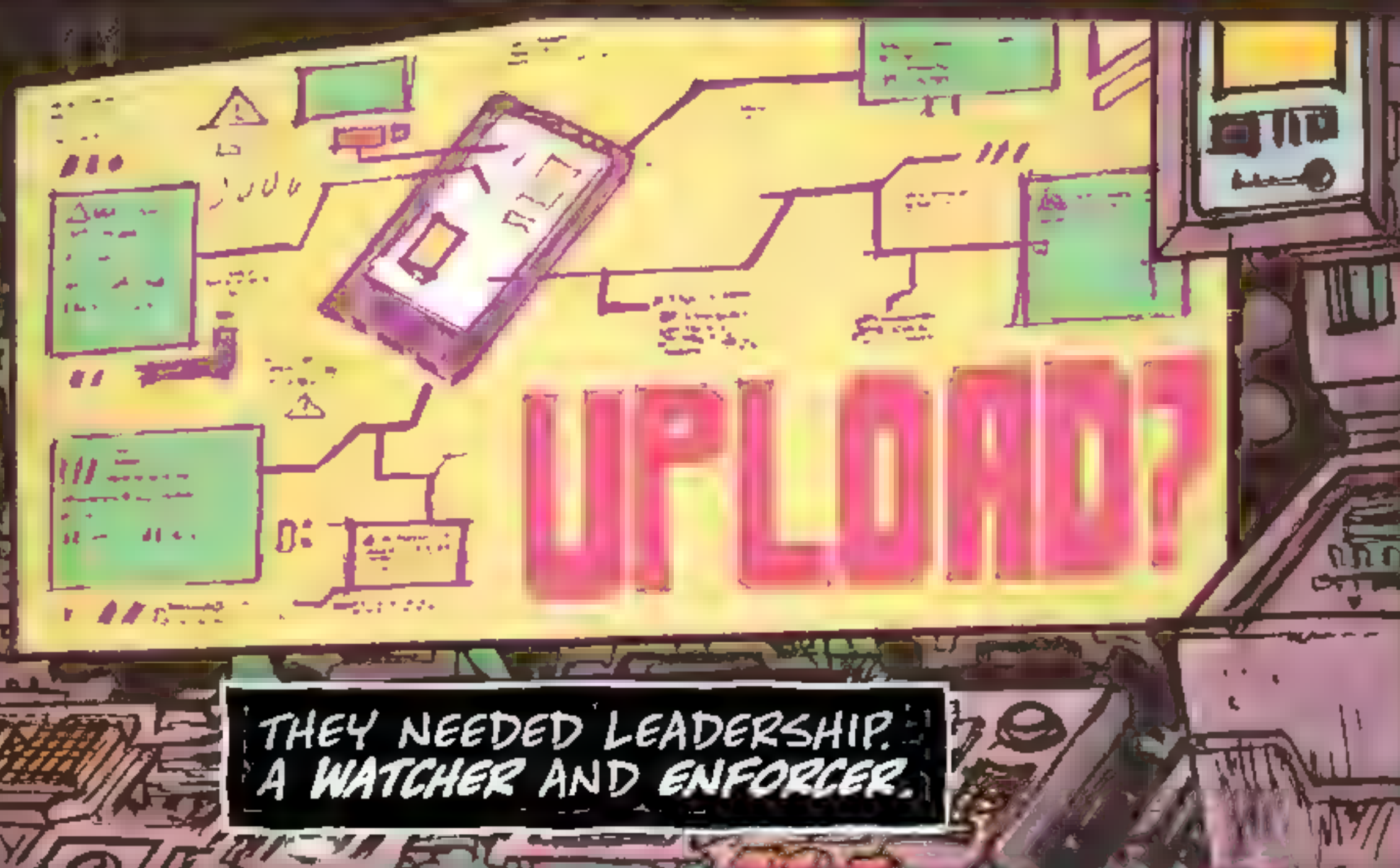
THIS MAN THIS CITY.

FRANK TIERI *Story*
FRANCESCO FRANCAVILLA *Art and Colors*
ANDWORLD DESIGN *Letters*

END.

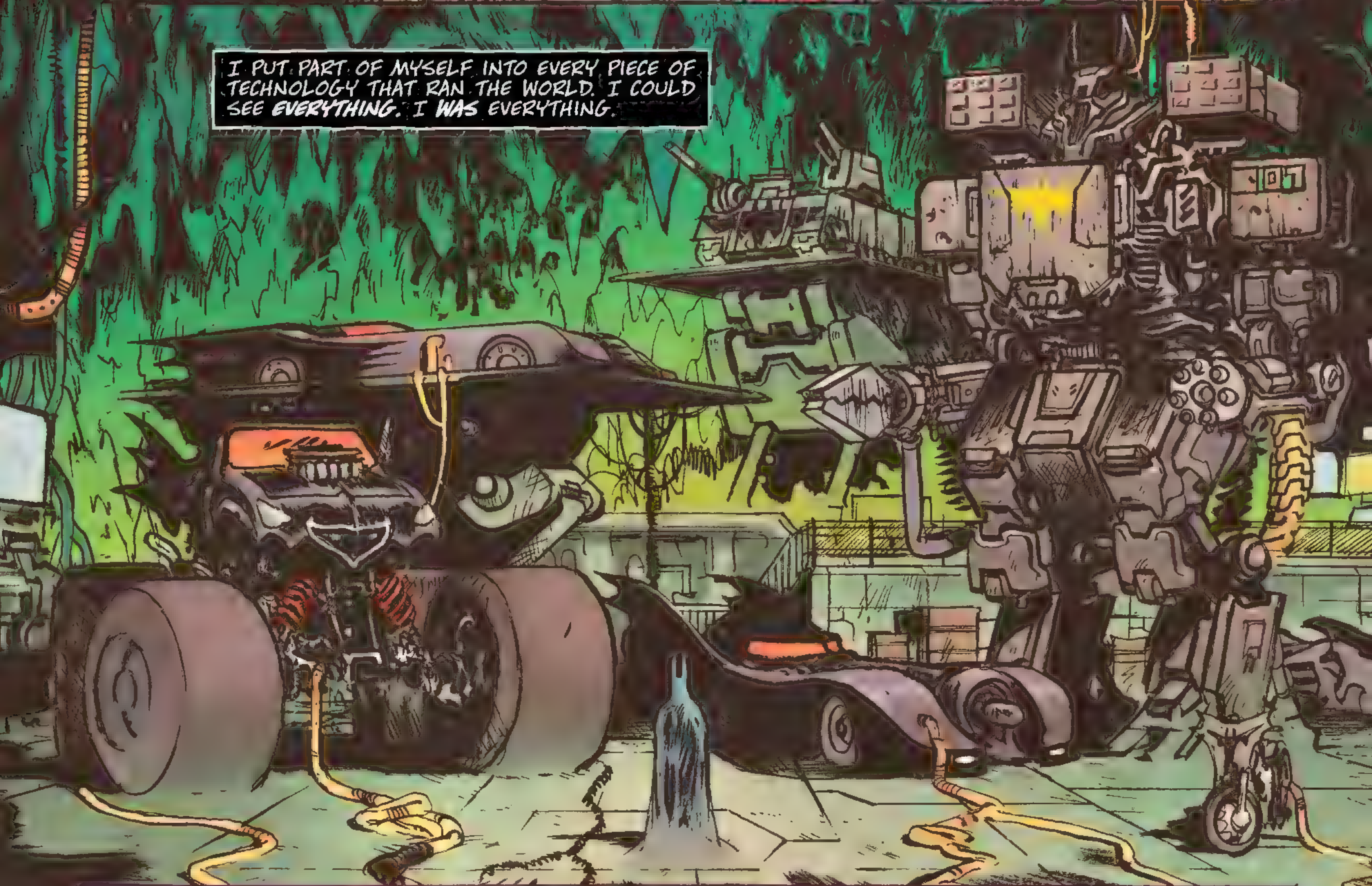
SOCIETY WAS RUNNING OUT OF GAS.

THE PEOPLE WERE UNABLE TO GOVERN. UNABLE TO PROTECT THEIR OWN SELVES FROM THE DEMONS AMONG THEM.

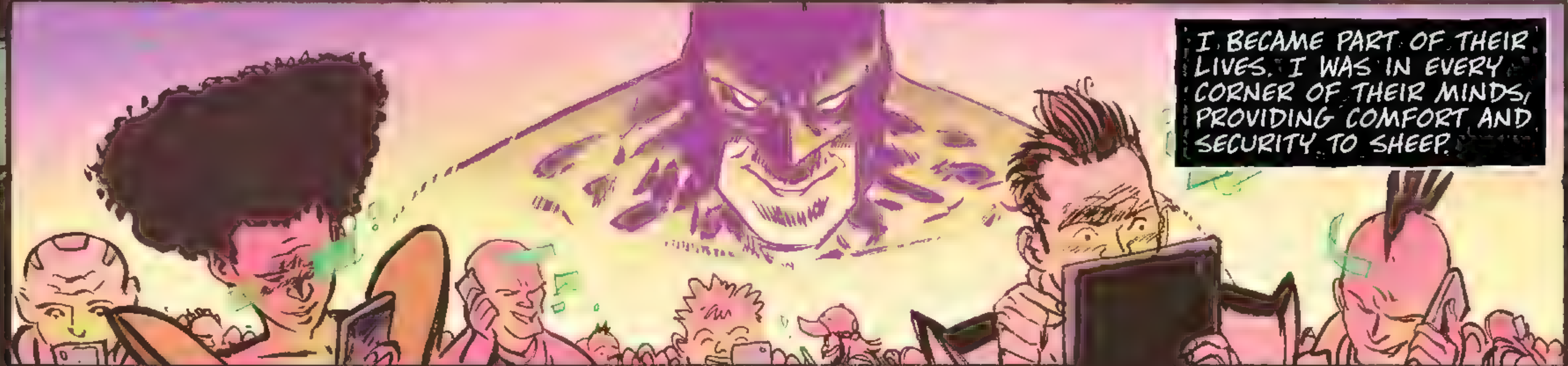


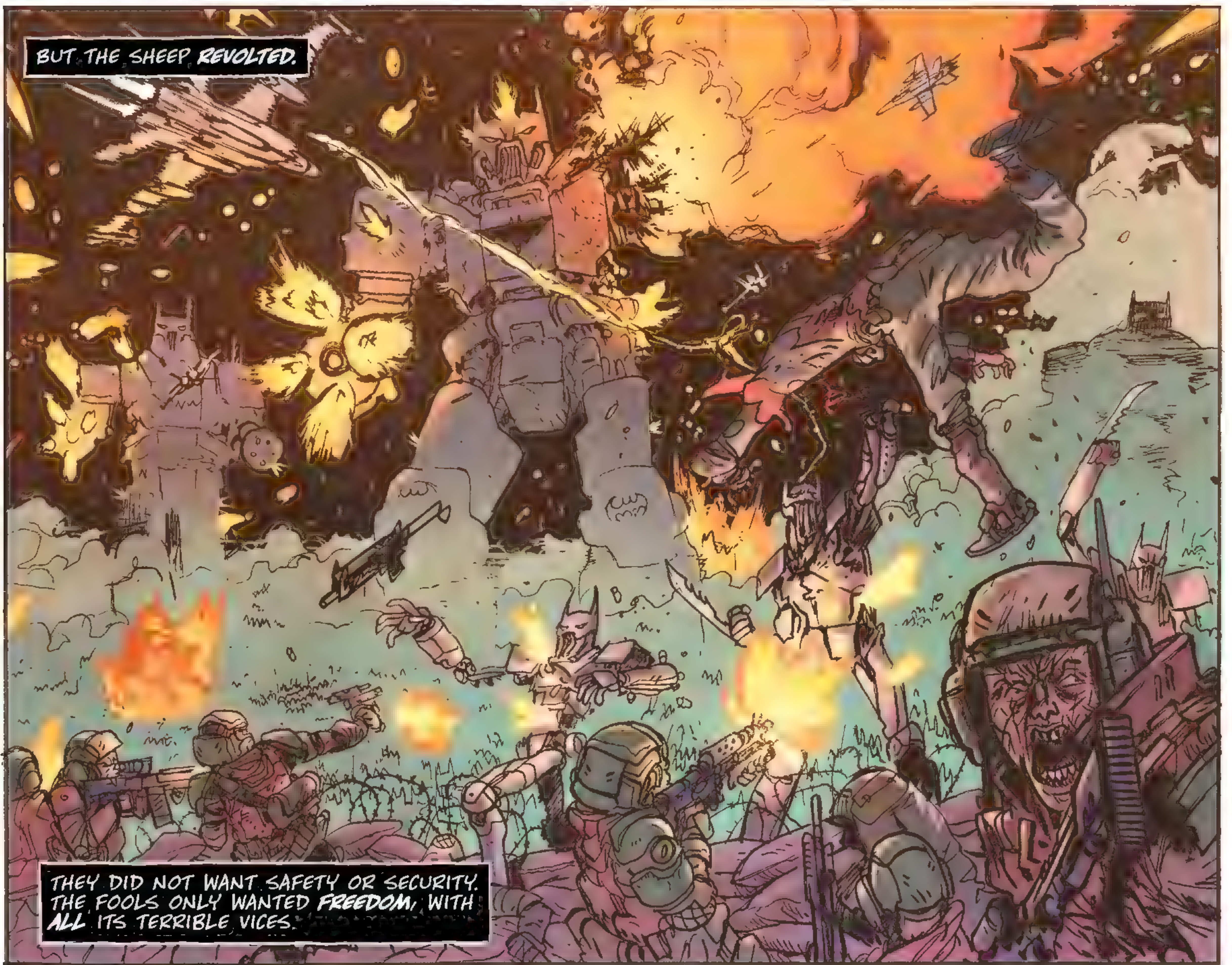
THEY NEEDED LEADERSHIP. A WATCHER AND ENFORCER.

I PUT PART OF MYSELF INTO EVERY PIECE OF TECHNOLOGY THAT RAN THE WORLD. I COULD SEE EVERYTHING. I WAS EVERYTHING.



I BECAME PART OF THEIR LIVES. I WAS IN EVERY CORNER OF THEIR MINDS, PROVIDING COMFORT AND SECURITY TO SHEEP.



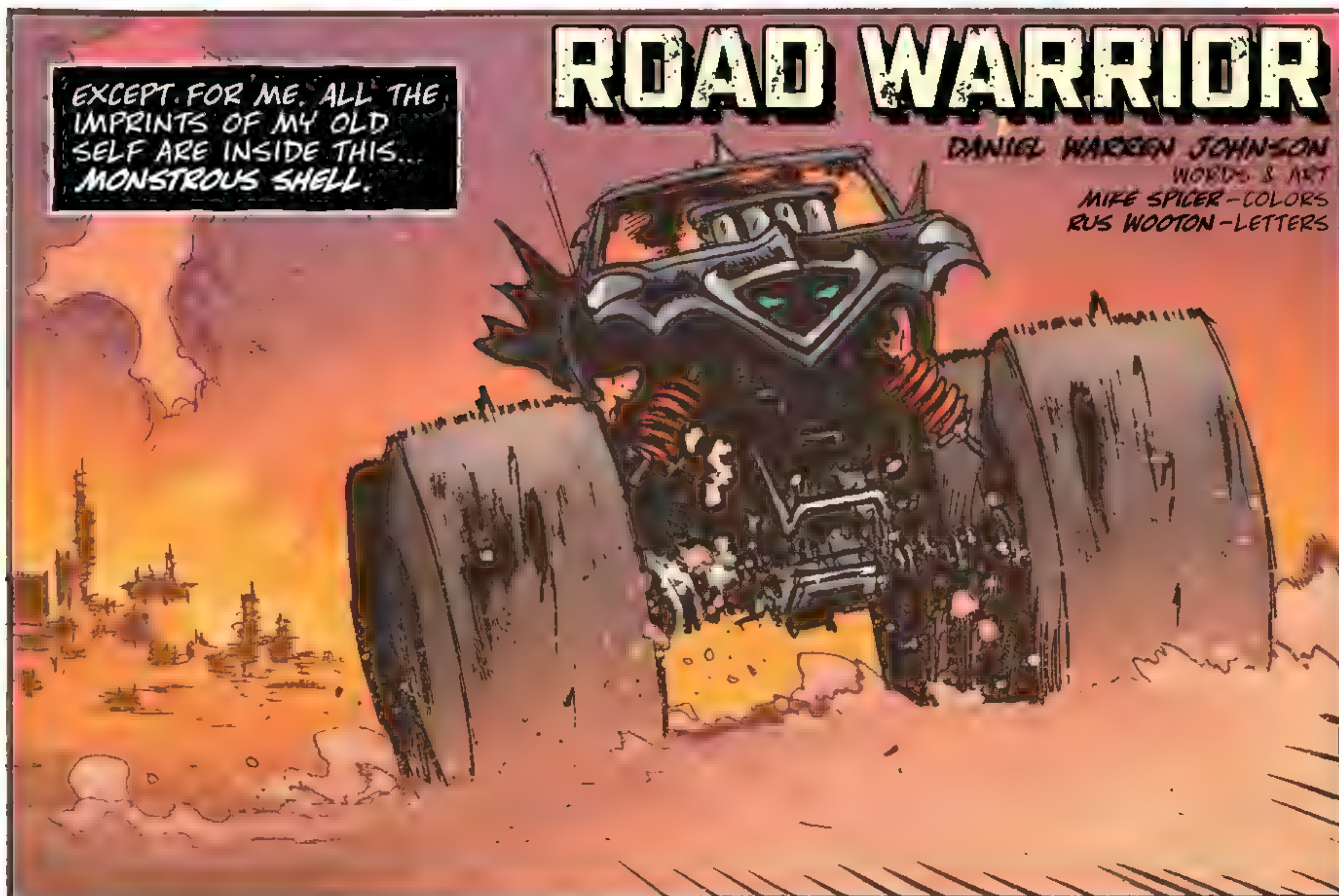


BUT THE SHEEP REVOLTED.

THEY DID NOT WANT SAFETY OR SECURITY.
THE FOOLS ONLY WANTED FREEDOM, WITH
ALL ITS TERRIBLE VICES.



I WAS SYSTEMATICALLY WIPED
FROM THIS PLANET. MY DIGITAL,
TECHNOLOGICAL, AND PHYSICAL
SELF... WAS DESTROYED.



EXCEPT FOR ME. ALL THE
IMPRINTS OF MY OLD
SELF ARE INSIDE THIS
MONSTROUS SHELL.

ROAD WARRIOR

DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON
WORDS & ART
MIKE SPICER - COLORS
RUS WOOTEN - LETTERS

I RIDE ALONE NOW,
FOR THE WORLD, FOR
GOTHAM. THEY NEED
ME TO SHOW THEM
THE WAY.

I WILL RISE AGAIN.

END.

WHEN MY BODY DIED,
MY MIND FLED INTO
CYBERSPACE.

NOW IT DOWNLOADS INTO THE
GENETICALLY ENGINEERED
HUMAN BODY I PREPARED- FOR
JUST SUCH AN EVENTUALITY.

I HAVE YEARS OF EXPERIENCE BEHIND
ME. NOW I LIVE ONCE MORE--FREE TO
TRAIN--TO PLOT MY REVENGE--

I SHALL BECOME...

GARTH ENNIS - *Writer* JOËLLE JONES - *Artist*
JORDIE BELLAIRE - *Colorist* ROB STEEN - *Letterer*

NOW, THE BATMAN OF
TWO LIFETIMES WILL BE
UNSTOPPABLE...!

PROCESS
COMPLETE

PROCESS
COMPLETE

HA...!

WAIT A MINUTE--

UH?

AM I A *BABY*?

I AM! I SCREWED UP!
I'M A NEWBORN BABY!

WHUP!

I'M EIGHTEEN
INCHES TALL, TEN
POUNDS WET--

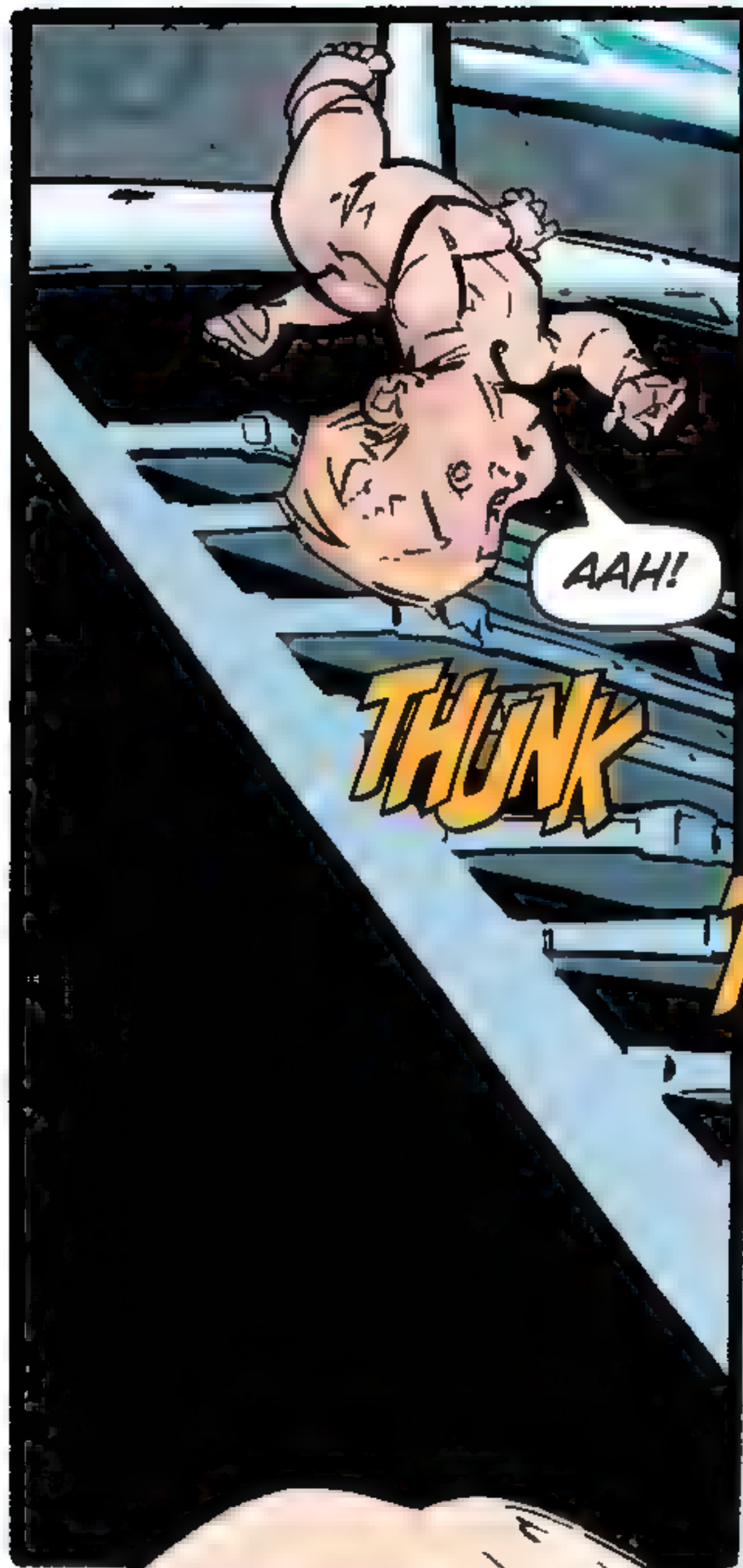
--TOTALLY UNCOORDINATED--

WAAAH!!

THUNK

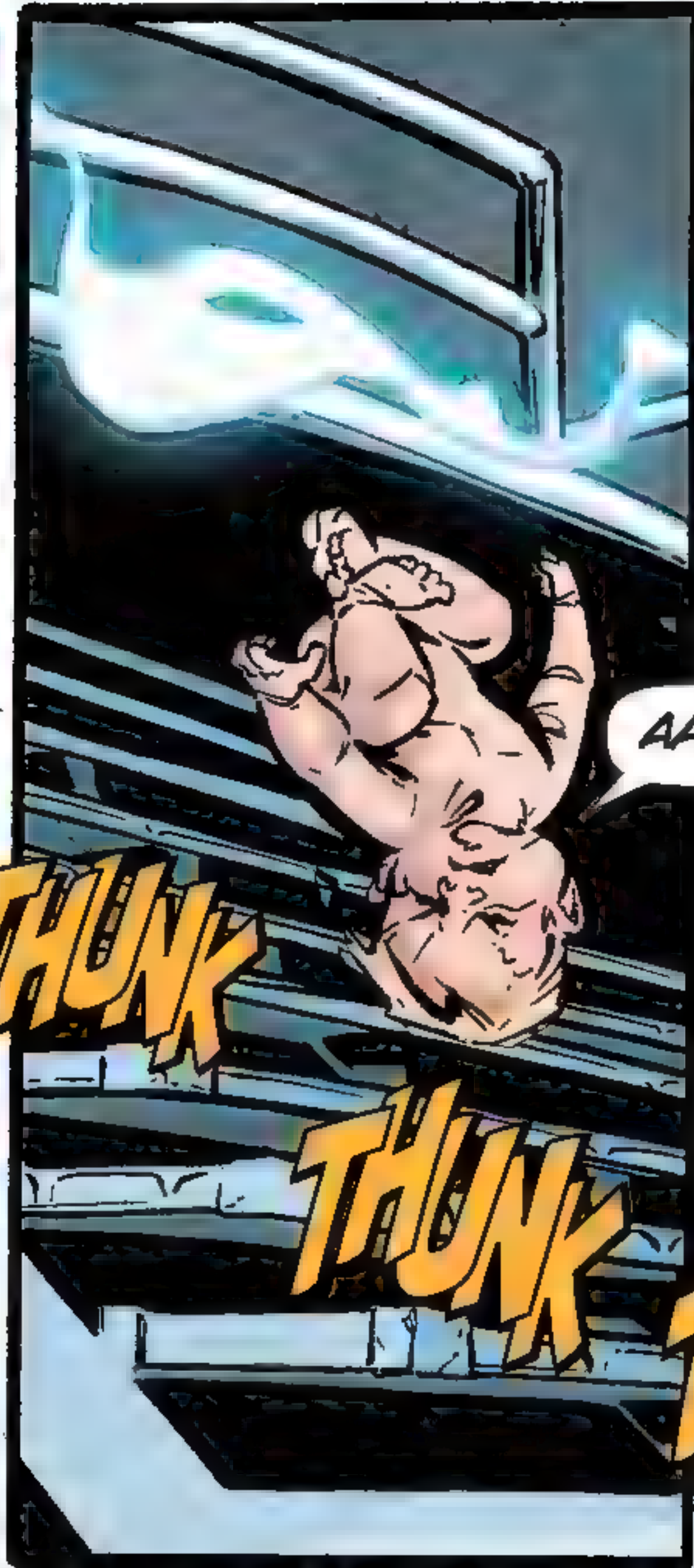
--AND--AW, WHAT'S
HAPPENING NOW--?

WAAAAAGGHH!



AAH!

THUNK

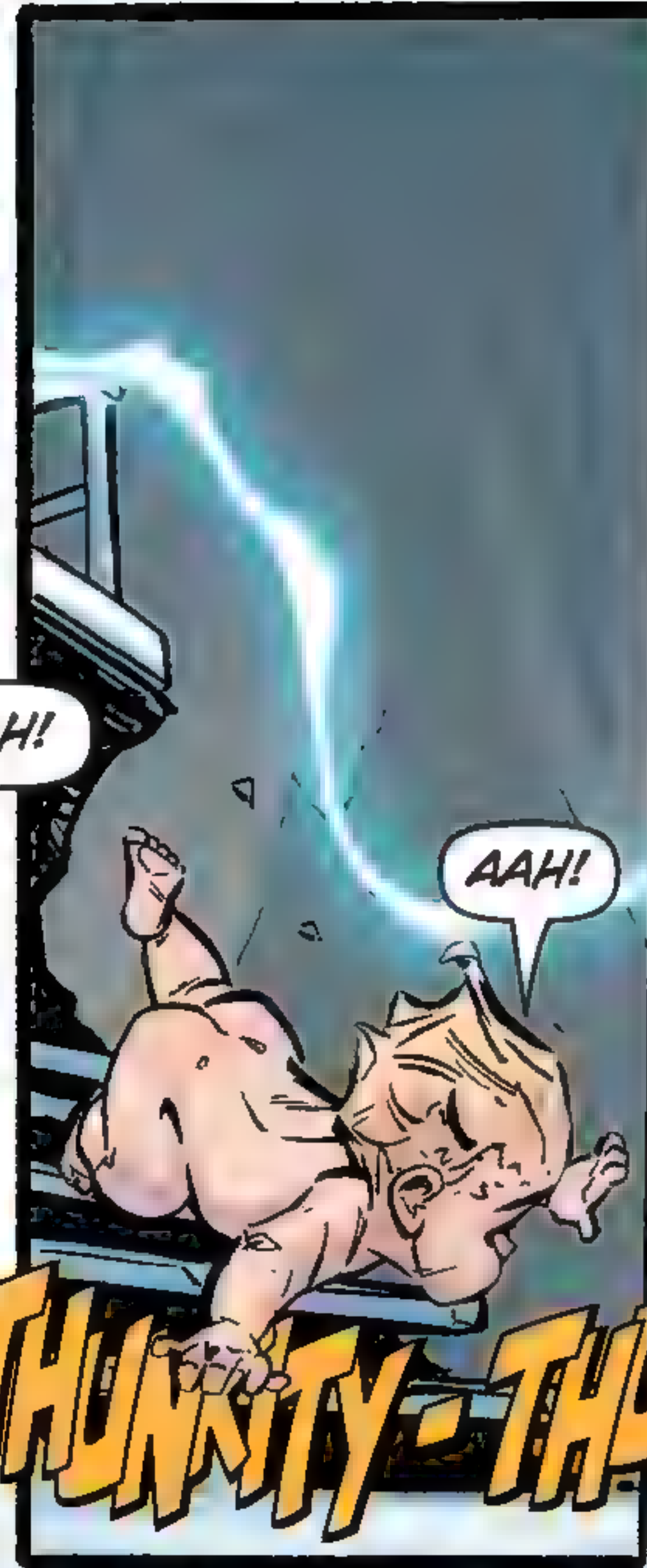


AAH!

THUNK

THUNK

THUNKITY-THUNK

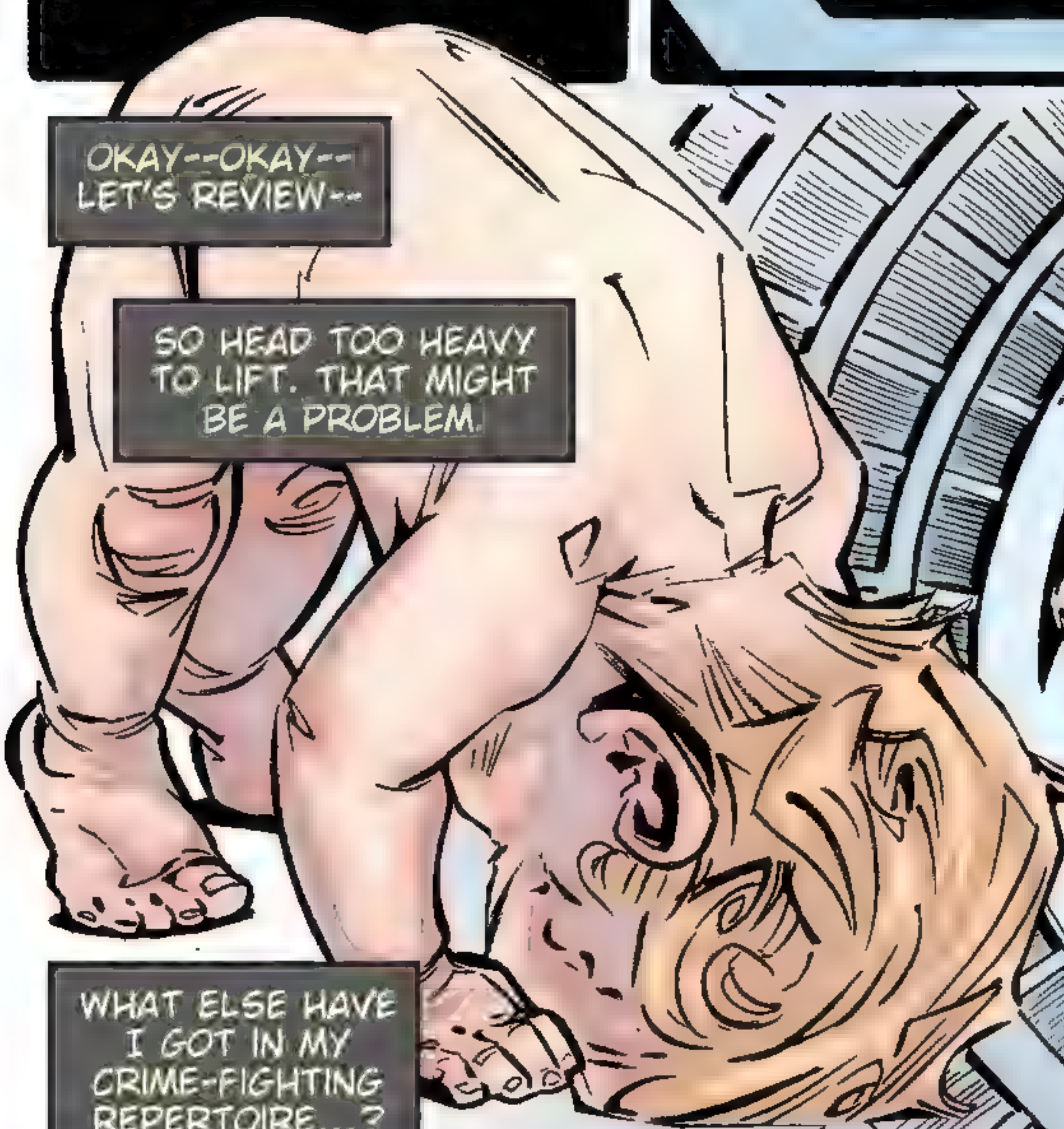


AAH!



AAH!

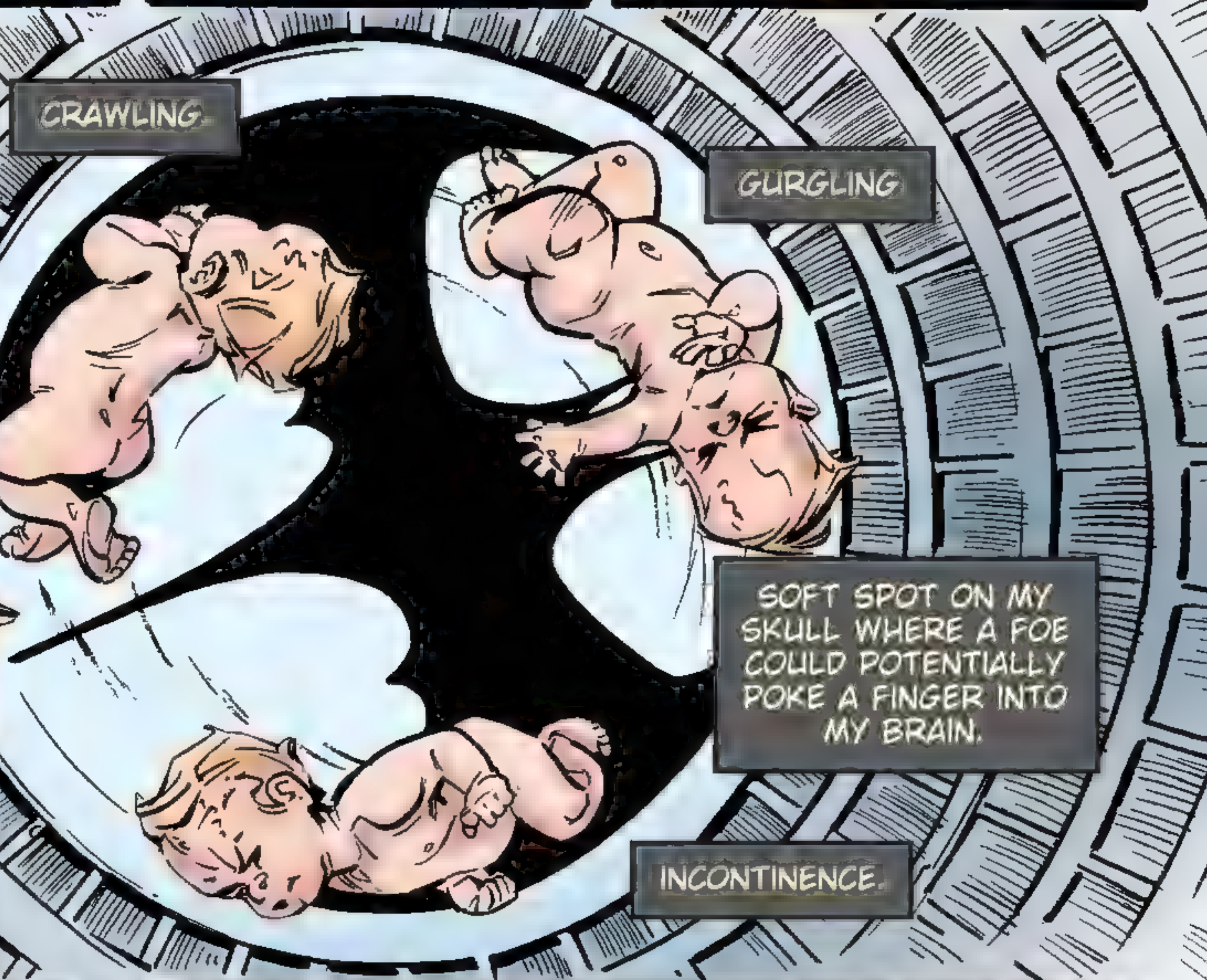
OH, COME ON!



OKAY--OKAY--
LET'S REVIEW--

SO HEAD TOO HEAVY
TO LIFT. THAT MIGHT
BE A PROBLEM.

WHAT ELSE HAVE
I GOT IN MY
CRIME-FIGHTING
REPERTOIRE...?

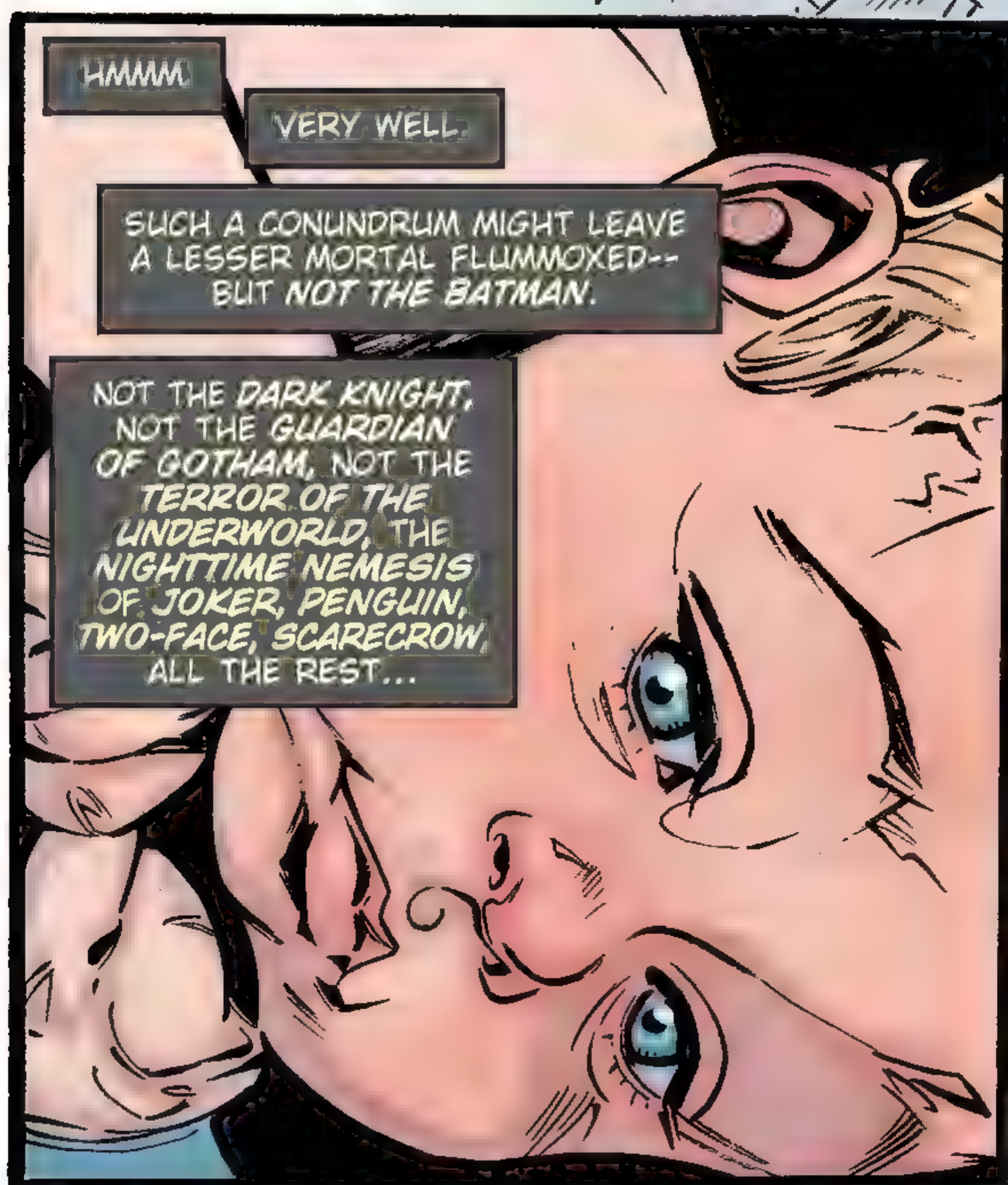


CRAWLING

GURGLING

SOFT SPOT ON MY
SKULL WHERE A FOE
COULD POTENTIALLY
POKE A FINGER INTO
MY BRAIN.

INCONTINENCE.



HHMM

VERY WELL.

SUCH A CONUNDRUM MIGHT LEAVE
A LESSER MORTAL FLUMMOXED--
BUT NOT THE BATMAN.

NOT THE DARK KNIGHT,
NOT THE GUARDIAN
OF GOTHAM, NOT THE
TERROR OF THE
UNDERWORLD, THE
NIGHTTIME NEMESIS
OF JOKER, PENGUIN,
TWO-FACE, SCARECROW,
ALL THE REST...



NOT WHEN I HAVE MY
ULTIMATE WEAPON--

WWAAAAAAA

END

GET READY FOR NEW DARK KNIGHTS!

STORIES BY SCOTT SNYDER ♦ JAMES TYNION IV ♦ JOSHUA WILLIAMSON
PETER J. TOMASI ♦ GARTH ENNIS ♦ MARGUERITE BENNETT
DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON ♦ FRANK TIERI

ART BY TONY S. DANIEL ♦ JOËLLE JONES ♦ DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON
RILEY ROSSMO ♦ JAMAL IGLE ♦ FRANCESCO FRANCAVILLA

COVER BY TONY S. DANIEL



DARK NIGHTS

**DEATH
METAL**

**LEGENDS
OF THE
DARK KNIGHTS**

NEW ONE-SHOT ♦ AUGUST

KANADOTH
THE ORIGINAL LORD OF CHAOS HAS RETURNED!

SYNMAR
THE BIGGEST THREAT SINCE DOOMSDAY ARRIVES!

LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES
NEW LOVE! NEW KRYPTON! NEW LANTERNS!

THE HOUSE OF KENT
UNITE TO SAVE METROPOLIS!



COSMIC CHILLS AND SUPERNATURAL THRILLS!

STARTING THIS FALL IN

SUPERMAN **ACTION**
COMICS

Legion
OF SUPER
HEROES

stories by **BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS**
art by **IVAN REIS, JOHN ROMITA JR.,**
RYAN SOOK, JOHN TIMMS,
and **KEVIN MAGUIRE**



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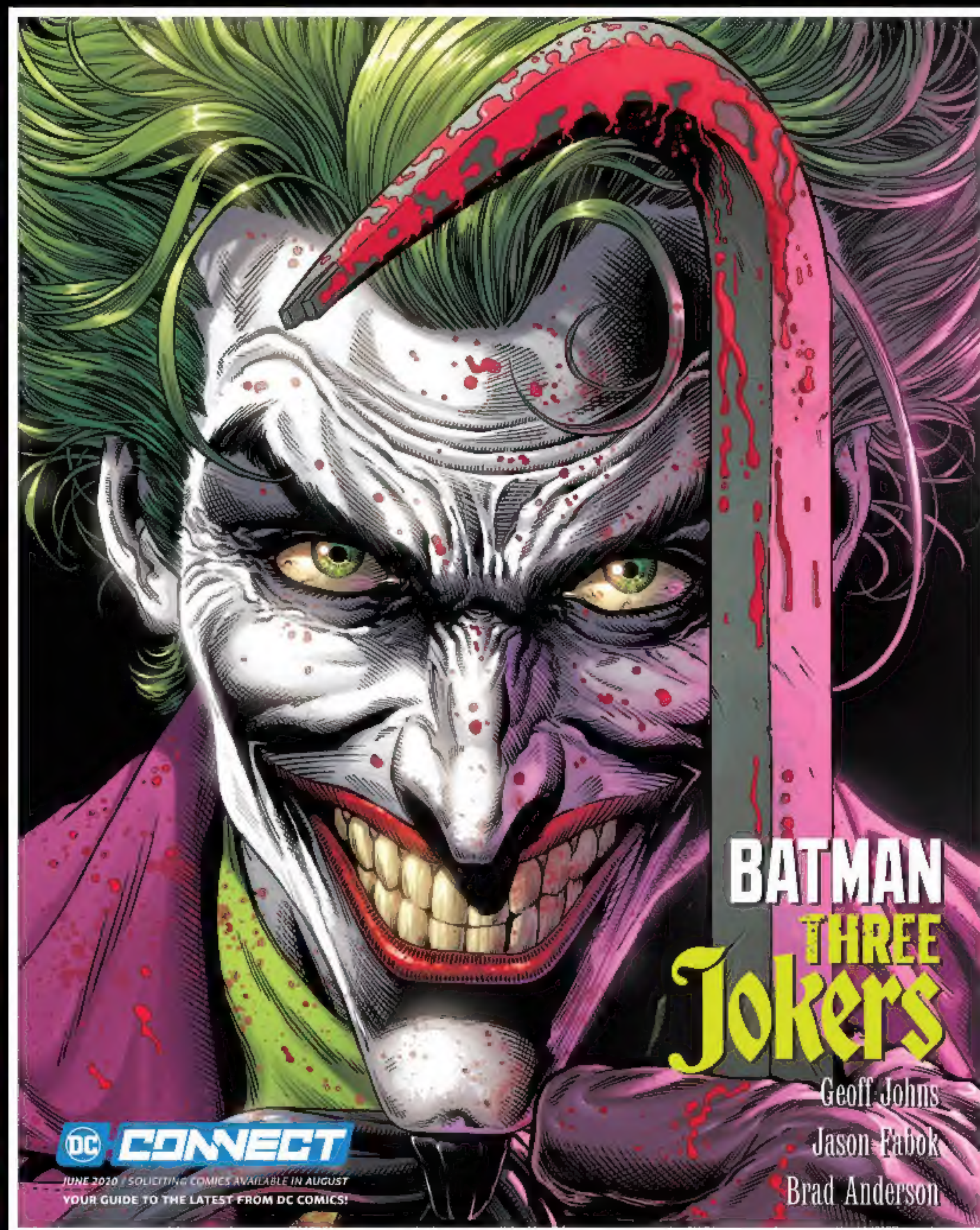
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COMICS

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- Batman #96
- Dark Nights: Legends of the Dark Knights #1
- DC Classics: The Batman Adventures #3
- DCeased: Dead Planet #2
- The Dreaming: Waking Hours #2
- Harley Quinn #75
- Justice League #50
- Strange Adventures #4
- Wonder Woman #1 (1987) Facsimile Edition
- Young Justice #17

Available Tuesday, August 11, 2020

- Batman and the Outsiders #15
- Batman: The Adventures Continue #3
- The Batman's Grave #9
- Dark Nights: Death Metal #3
- Detective Comics #1025
- The Flash #759
- The Green Lantern Season Two #6
- Harley Quinn and the Birds of Prey #3
- Hawkman #36
- Justice League Odyssey #23
- Superman #24
- Wonder Woman #760

Available Tuesday, August 18, 2020

- Aquaman #62
- Batman #97
- Catwoman #24
- Dark Nights: Death Metal Guidebook #1
- Justice League #51
- Mad Magazine #15
- Metal Men #9
- Nightwing #73
- The Question: The Deaths of Vic Sage #4
- Scouty-Do: Where Are You? #105
- Teen Titans #44
- Wonder Woman Annual #4
- Wonder Woman: Dead Earth #4

Available Tuesday, August 25, 2020

- Action Comics #9014
- Amethyst #5
- Batgirl #48
- Batman Beyond #46
- Batman: Three Jokers #1
- Batman/Superman #71
- Books of Magic #22
- Detective Comics #1026
- The Flash #760
- John Constantine: Hellblazer #9
- Justice League Dark #25
- The Last God #8
- Legion of Super-Heroes #8
- Plunge #6
- Red Hood Outlaw #68
- Suicide Squad #9
- Teen Titans Annual #2
- Wonder Woman #761

ORIGINAL GRAPHIC NOVELS

Available Tuesday, July 28, 2020

- Green Lantern Earth One Vol. 2 HC

Available Tuesday, September 1, 2020

- Teen Titans: Best Boy TP

Available Tuesday, September 29, 2020

- Super Sons Book Three: Escape to Landis TP

Available Tuesday, October 13, 2020

- Swamp Thing: Twin Branches TP

COLLECTED EDITIONS

Available Tuesday, August 11, 2020

- Aquaman: Deadly Waters Deluxe Edition HC
- Batman TP
- Wonder Twins Vol. 2: The Fall and Rise of the Wonder Twins TP

Available Tuesday, August 18, 2020

- The Power of Shazam! Book One: In the Beginning HC
- Wonder Woman Vol. 2: Love is a Battlefield TP

Available Tuesday, August 25, 2020

- Green Lantern TP
- Justice League Odyssey Vol. 3: Final Frontier TP
- Justice League United: Galactic Justice TP

Available Tuesday, September 1, 2020

- Booster Gold: Future Lost HC
- The Flash: Savage Velocity TP
- Hellblazer Vol. 23: No Future TP
- Robin: 80 Years of the Boy Wonder HC
- Supergirl: Cosmic Adventures in the 8th Grade TP New Edition

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- Batman: The Demon Trilogy HC

Available Tuesday, October 6, 2020

- JLA by Grant Morrison Omnibus HC

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- The Sandman: The Books of Magic Omnibus Vol. 1 HC

Available Tuesday, October 20, 2020

- Batman: The Road to No Man's Land Omnibus HC

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- Luckiest Omnibus Vol. 2 HC

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- Super Sons Omnibus HC Expanded Edition

Available Tuesday, December 8, 2020

- Absolute Transmetropolitan HC New Edition
- Superman vs. Wonder Woman (Tabloid Edition) HC

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- DC Poster Portfolio: Clay Mann TP

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